

T H E
Honour of Chivalry;
O R,
The famous and delectable
H I S T O R Y
O F
Don Bellianis of Greece.

CONTAINING
The valiant Exploits of that magnanimous
and heroick Prince, Son to the Emperor
Don Bellaneo of Greece.

Wherein are described, the strange and dangerous
Adventures that befel him: With his Love
towards the Princess Florisbella, Daughter to
the Soldan of Babylon.

Translated out of Italian.

*Sed tamen est tristissima janua nostre,
Et labor est unus tempora prima pati.*

L O N D O N:

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THE
HONOUR of CHIVALRY;
Or, the famous and delectable
H I S T O R Y
O F
Don BELLIANIS,
O F G R E E C E, &c.



C H A P. I.

How the Emperor Don Bellaneo (father to Don Bellianis) married to the beautiful Clarinda, daughter to Trolajano, king of Spain; and of the birth of Don Bellianis of Greece; and of a strange adventure that befel him in hunting, by which he was parted from the Emperor his father.

DON Bellaneo the Emperor, who bore the imperial sway of the crown and scepter of Greece, was a prince of wonderful affability, gallant in heroick actions, and admirable in the distribution of justice, all which render'd him the delight of mankind. And from his youth he was in continual pursuit of glory, by haughty attempts

against those of his foes, that provok'd him to be about
 justly so accounted, and he behav'd himself with time
 such puissance, that the most hardy of gallant pow
 knights, and the most fierce and monstrous giants with
 were forc'd to give way to his all-conquering arm of fo
 And having spent most of his youth in hostile arms W
 (wherein he was always victorious) was at last, blatin
 the importunity of his nobility and subjects, ped v
 suaded to demand in marriage the princess Clarinda leav
 daughter to Trolejano, king of Hesperia (or Spain of so
 to whom he sent embassadors, of extraordinary but
 worth, in the greatest pomp, to make known h fle c
 magnificence; which when the Heberian monarch B
 understood, he himself in person, went to me to C
 them in great courtesey; and they in return to suc the
 condescension, alighted to do him reverence, and perf
 after reciprocal ceremonies, they re-mounted e such
 horseback, and attended him to his glorious metrop In
 polis, the famous Hispalis; and when arriv'd had
 his palace, they alighted and enter'd the great hall of w
 where were the queen and the princess Clarinda in he
 with divers peers that expected their coming: Th his c
 king of Hungaria, the principal of the embassy from Clar
 the Emperor, address'd himself to the queen, knee more
 ing to kiss her hand, but she gently refusing plant
 courteously took him up, and embracing him, he and
 noured him with all possible respect befitting his dig ther,
 nity; and he and the others were entertain'd wit (espe
 the utmost magnificence: And the princess likewise D
 receiv'd them with such wonderful grace and favour to h
 that they could not but admire her excellent beaut ing;
 and singular perfections, rejoycing that they shoul ceed
 have so excellent a lady for their Empress. A

The next morning they were summon'd to parlia his f
 ment, and their present audience to the kingly em fore
 bassadors at the senate-house; in order to consult a provi
 bo:

about the consummation of the marriage in ten days with time, which was agreed to by both the princely powers, which occasioned great joy, and fill'd all with vast expectations in relation to the solemnity of so great espousals.

When all things were order'd and agreed to, relating to the royal nuptials; the ambassador departed with the princess and her glorious attendance, leaving the court in great solitude, for the absence of so bright a gem of princely courtesy and beauty; but she was then going to the greatest earthly glory she could be advanced to.

By easy and pleasant journeys, at last they came to Constantinople, where they were welcom'd with the utmost joy and magnificence, and the nuptials performed with the greatest pomp and grandeur that such a solemnization required and demanded.

In process of time, the Emperor Don Bellaneo had by the Empress Clarinda, three sons, the eldest of which was called Don Bellianis of Greece, who inherited his father's virtues, his valour, and after his death, his empire. The second named Don Clarineo of Spain: And the third, Don Lucidamore of Thessaly; who in military discipline, gallant and heroick actions almost equal'd his father, and excel'd all others, except Don Bellianis his brother, which drew the eyes and admiration of all, (especially of Don Bellianis) on so excellent a prince.

Don Bellianis was educated at court, agreeable to his dignity and birth, in all knowledge, learning, and feats of chivalry; so that none could exceed him in the circumference of the whole world.

About the fifteenth year of his age, the Emperor, his father, resolv'd on a hunting match in a spacious forest, three miles distant from the city; and being provided with proper necessaries, he departed to it,

accompanied with the Empress, his son Don Belianis, and a royal retinue, leaving his two brothers at court. In a little time they arriv'd (with their grand equipage) at the place where the sport began with the melodious noise of hounds and horns, whose eccho ran thro' the whole forrest: In a little time (not far from the Empress) issued forth, with wonderful fierceness and celerity, a lion and a bear, and tho' they would have hid themselves, they were so molested they could not find a place; upon which the lion with great fierceness ran directly against the prince, who, tho' surpriz'd at the first, fear'd him not, but undauntedly set himself before him with sword in hand, but the fierce beast assail'd him so suddenly with his cruel claws and teeth, that he was grievously wounded; but the prince not discourag'd therewith, with a gallant air of intrepidity, thrust his arm with great force directly down his throat, to his heart! at which the beast was so intimidated, that with great struggling he got loose and left him. At which time turning about, he saw the bear with devilish fury had overthrown his cousin Don Brianel, and was dragging him over the hills and mountain tops; which he seeing, (notwithstanding his wounds) strait took his horse, and with great speed followed the bear, tho' dissuaded by many gallant knights of the company, that follow'd in his rescue; as also in particular the Empress, who with lamentable outcries, forbidding his enterprize; yet notwithstanding, he with undaunted spirit, being dismounted, thrust himself into the thickest of the dark and dismal grove; at last he heard the noise of a lamentable and piteous cry, but being much dispirited by loss of blood, he sat himself down for a little respite; but suddenly heard a great noise from out the thicket, at which he faint-

ly

ly began to rise, and looking about, he saw the most horrible and terrible bear coming forwards towards him, with great fury, but the prince setting himself in a resolute posture of defence, the monster pass'd by him, and took to a cave at the foot of a hill; at which the prince was very joyful, and found out his cousin, who he embraced, and expressed his exceeding joy for his safety; then hand in hand they went to the cave where the bear was, whose obscure darkness was sufficient to daunt the stoutest in the world. But notwithstanding these princes with great intrepidity, advanced forwards into the cave, wherein they had scarce gone ten paces, but they heard a noise of great blows, as if many knights were fighting together; and going forward, Don Bellianis (for his cousin, by some enchantment was hinder'd from going any further) when he was in, saw a vast great pillar with an inscription in Arabian characters, which going to read, by the light that proceeded from a window adjacent, he was forbidden by a huge and monstrous giant, saying, thou art not permitted, poor captive, to read the letters of this brazen pillar, for I will hinder thee, being here placed for that purpose. The prince was amaz'd to see so mishapen'd a monster; but yet undauntedly he reply'd, I may not yet encounter thee thou monster, because I have not receiv'd the honour of knighthood, which if I had, I would not stir hence before I had read them. That's a foolish argument (reply'd the giant) to screen thy cowardice, and thou shalt dearly pay for thy presumption in entering my forbidden ground and habitation. At which he let loose the furious bear, which with great rage ran against the prince, and the giant laying hold of a huge siniter from his side, gave him a mighty blow on his head, which wounded him very

much; but the prince at an advantage, closed with the giant, and so locked himself between his arms, that he could not hurt him; and by accident the limiter fell into the ground, in which interim, the prince struck the giant upon his thigh, which no more hurt him than if he had struck upon an anvil, which he perceiving, turned to the bear, but could no more wound him, than the giant; which vexed him to the heart: And seeing the giant returning upon him, got behind the aforesaid brazen pillar, making use of it as of a shield for his defence, yet notwithstanding, the giant (having recovered his limiter) gave him such a blow on the head, as he thought clave it in sunder, and made him give ground backward; at which time the bear took hold of his arm, with his dreadful paws, and rent his hunting jacket, and also wounded him at the same time. Then retiring again to the pillar for refuge; and by chance seeing a sword of wonderful workmanship, the like never seen; he immediately attempted to draw it, which he did with great ease out of the scabbard, which was no sooner done, then there was heard a most horrible noise as if the world was at its dissolution; at which time the giant prepared himself for another attempt upon the prince, and the prince with the sword, thrust at the giant with his utmost force, so that the point was seen out at his back, which caused him to fall to the earth like a mighty oak torn up by the roots by a whirlwind: Then looking about for the bear, found him also dead, so that the enchantment was ended. Which was done by drawing of the sword, and was the cause of the noise aforesaid.

Don Arfileo, his cousin, that remain'd at the cave's mouth, heard the noise, tried again if he could enter it, which he then did with ease, and came to Don Bellianis,

Bellianis, and embraced him with great joy, for his deliverance; and then they essayed to read the inscription on the pillar, on which they found these words.

*In time to come the fierceness of the lion,
Who makes all fear when they on him set eye on:
By my great skill shall unto tameness charge,
And all his rage with which he used to range.
Shall sink with silence, till a hardy prince,
With this drawn sword, those who have ever since
Kept my dread cave, by his strong arm are slain,
Then cease shall force, contrived by magick brain.*

After which, when they had read, and discoursing concerning the conclusion of the adventure, they were surpriz'd by the sight of a most beautiful lady coming out of a sumptuous chamber, cloathed in crimson sattin, the train of whose garment trailed on the ground; and she was led between two antient and comely knights, and also attended by twelve damsels in the same glorious appearance: The lady complimented Don Bellianis with the utmost civility and complacency, and entertained with the greatest delicacies. And here we leave them to shew what befel the Emperor Don Bel-lanco.

C H A P. II.

How the Emperor departed in quest of his son Don Bellianis; and of the strange and dangerous adventure of the discovered castle.

AT the many and sad outcries of the Empress, for her son Don Bellianis, in the adventure of the bear; divers knights went in pursuit for his deliverance, and in following him, found much blood in the road, which occasioned much sorrow and dismay amongst them all; but yet they saw not the cave's mouth, because the entrance was then stopt; and not staying there, they sought the prince in the thickest parts of the groves, but not finding any footing or sign of him, yet they durst not return to the Empress without him.

The like happened to the Emperor, who was told how a horrible bear dragged the prince Arfilco, as before mentioned; who understanding it, made no longer stay, but accompanied with many knights, went in search of both the princes: and after long and much toil, himself seeking in the thick woods, fearing some sad disaster had happened to his son, and being in armour, putting himself forward on horseback, left the knights to their several ways in their search, and attended only by one esquire, named Don Brianel, forc'd his way through the wild and wide forest.

Not long after some of the Knights found the cave, and some of the company sadly lamenting the cruel chance that had befallen Don Bellianis, but not knowing he was therein, they sought still with indefatigable labour in many places, till the darksome night overtook them, and forced them to
return

return to their tents, where they left the Empress, who was so enrag'd with grief, would have commanded their heads to be stricken off; who also was now in great sorrow for the Emperor, for his sudden going through those terrible, dangerous and large groves, fearing his being devoured by savage and wild beasts that inhabited those wide, long, and lonesome woods.

The Emperor (with Don Brionel, as his esquire) thrusting himself thro' the wild groves, taking his way variously, being at no certainty, and so travel'd till it was night; and finding his search to no purpose, because of the obscurity of the night, therefore he and Don Brianel alighted, and unbri-dled their horses, that they might feed on the green grass (that grew there in great plenty) for their refreshment, they being so tired, as hardly able any longer to bear their masters. The Emperor was under such agonies of mind, for the loss of the two princes, and for the grief of the Empress, that he could not compose himself to rest; but at last falling into a slumber, was suddenly awaked by such loud and dismal outcries as made the vallies echo with the noise, which still seemed to increase, and as if they proceeded from one in great necessity, and under sad and calamitous circumstances; at which the good Emperor commanded Don Brianel to bridle his horse, whilst he braced on his helmet, and casting his shield at his back, mounted his horse, and taking his lance, broke his way thro' the grove, following the noise that he heard, supposing that the princes might be there, and still as he went forward, found himself nearer to the dismal cry, and looking about him, espied a large, high, and well fortified castle, with towers, but by reason of the darkness of the night could not well discern

discern them ; but coming to the gate, and perceiving that the cry came from thence, he knocked, but none answered, which increased his desire of knowing the cause of the violence used within ; so he went round the castle, but could find no entrance, and being tired with delay, and the sad cry still increasing, he saw a rope fixed to the top of the castle, with which they drew up stones, so the Emperor, finding no other entry, bid Don Brianel unarm him, who said, what do you mean, my good lord ? do you think to force entrance through these stone walls ? I intend nothing less, replies the Emperor, and therefore unarm me, and then bind my armour to this rope, and I will arm myself above. So dismounting and unarm'd he took hold of the rope, and taking with him his shield, he climb'd to the top of the castle, then he called for his armour, but had not time to clad himself therewith ; for as soon as he came up, he saw thro' the gallery, about ten knights pursued by two hideous giants and other knights, that laid on them many and terrible blows, which the Emperor seeing, took his strong shield and opposed the giants, and calling to the knights that fled, that they should turn again, and not shew such cowardice : at which, with amazed shame, wonder'd that a single knight, and unarm'd, should have such courage to attempt so hazardous an enterprize, they then assumed courage and returned against the furious giants with the greatest indignation, who wondered that one man only should have the hardiness to resist their fury : whereupon they set upon him with great battle-axes, but he with an undaunted mind, stayed for them, and avoiding the blow of the first giant, received the second's on his shield, which almost stun'd him ; whereat, full of rage, he struck one of them

on

on the head with such force, as cleft him down to his eyes, and brought him dead to the ground; whereupon the other giant struck at him with his battle-ax, but the Emperor warding the blow with his sword, (otherwise he had been cleft afunder) with wonderful activity closed with the giant, and with surprizing strength, and at proper advantage, tumbled him headlong over the castle wall, so that with the fall he died. Then the Emperor looking towards the flying knights, observed they were put to the worst by the other knights, the giants accomplices, which he seeing, laid hold on one of the destroyed giants shields, for his own was cut afunder) and laid about him in such manner with his well tempered sword, that he brought several of them dead to the ground, which put fresh courage into the flying knights, and returning to the fight, soon vanquished their enemies. And thus ended the adventure of the castle.



C H A P. III.

How Don Bellianis departed from the cave, and by what strange adventure he and Don Arfileo were knighted, with the brave and dangerous fight between the two princes and the knights of the castles.

THE prince Don Bellianis, with his cousin Arfileo, remained ten days in the damsel's cave 'till they were able to travel, and grieved very much for the sorrow that the Emperor and Empreiss would endure for the loss of him and his cousin: be-

ing ready to depart, Don Asileo requested the lady to tell them the occasion of her being in the cave; the damsel, with a sorrowful countenance, caused by the remembrance of her past misfortunes, thus began. Most noble princes, I was daughter to Don Pompeano, not long since king of Antioch, and am called Aurora; and being at the sultan of Baylon's court, accompanying his daughter, the most beautiful princess Florisbella. To this court came a knight, who, from the device in his shield was called the Knight of the three Images, and appeared so valiant, that no ten knights in the whole court were able to encounter him, and performed such deeds of chivalry, that he was reckoned as a second Mars, and the sultan did no less esteem him, and being so encouraged, became enamored of the bright Florisbella: And, on a day, when the sultan and all his court were gone a hunting, he remained alone in the palace, and after some pleasant discourse, revealed to me his secret passion for the princess, and desired me to become his advocate to her adorable person, that he might be admitted and accepted of as her knight; but on my application to her, found her very much averse to the proposal, and commanded that he should no more attempt such presumption, lest the sultan her father should hear thereof; but yet, being very much inflamed with her excellent beauty, persisted in his addresses personally, which when the sultan knew, in great anger, commanded him immediately to depart his kingdom, which tho' so stout, was forced to do with a very heavy heart, and applied himself to the sophy of Persia; and suspecting I was the cause of his exile, excited the sophy to enter my father's dominions with fire and sword, and with such (tho' unwarrantable) success, that he took possession of
the

the whole kingdom, after the death of the king my father, (who was slain) he gave the kingdom to Don Gasaneo, a man reputed of great valour; and and fearing I should fall into their hands, I consulted with a wise woman, called the sage Bellona, and by her direction and conduct, with these damsels, we arrived in this country, and to this cave, and bid me here remain, for it would not be long before I was delivered by the prince of Greece and his cousin of Hungaria. The fearful bear was there placed by the said wise woman, to bring Don Arfileo as you saw, to the said cave; and the mighty giant which you slew, remained keeper of the cave, who was not to be slain by any weapon but by the sword that you drew out by the pillar that he guarded. And thus have I told you the occasion, and shewn you the cause of my being in the cave, and of my deliverance.

Not long after their departure from the cave, they espied before them a very fair and beautiful castle, upon which the princess and ladies mask'd themselves, and the rest were so disguised as not to be known, and coming near the castle, they saw two knights coming forth, one in white armour, and the other of a larger stature, and more comely personage, and seemed of greater valour, and accoutred in most rich armour of an azure or blue colour, adorn'd with an imperial crown of gold, and in the midst of his shield was represented the figure of Mars, the god of battle. These knights of the castle led with them a man on horseback, unbooted and spur'd, as a prisoner; at which Don Arfileo said, if I were knighted, I would know who these knights are, and why they lead the knight prisoner; do not trouble yourself, good cousin, said Don Bellianis, for it easily shall be done, and let
that

that be my charge; and going forward they met a Squire that came to them and said, My master in the white armour, desireth you by me (he being this day knighted) to break a lance or two with him, having a mind to try if your inward valour be equal to your outward appearance. Tell him, said Don Bellianis, we would gladly agree with his proposal, were we but knighted (as he saith he is) by the Grecian emperor's hands. The esquire returning to his master, told him the answer that he receiv'd, at which the knight with great arrogance came to them, and said, which of you is that knight that gave my esquire so proud an answer. You should not need to ask it, replied Arfiloe, were we but knighted, desiring nothing more than to satisfy your request: To which the knight replied, since you desire knighthood from the Grecian emperor's hands, to save you the labour of going so far, I can satisfy you he is not at Constantinople, nor of him is there any news: but yonder knight, both in possession and valour is not inferior to the emperor you speak of, and you may receive of him the order you seek for, to which Don Bellianis replied, we will then now receive the order of him, that we may chastise your haughty arrogance; and calling to one of the damsels, sent her in their names to the knight in the azure armour, who going where he was, said to him, the knights you see with yonder ladies, (noble sir) intreat the order of arms at your hands, since the emperor is absent from Constantinople. Then they all alighted, and they taking three oaths they were knighted, and the princess Aurora girded Don on Bellianis's sword, who whilst the knight in white did the like to Don Arfiloe: then the knight in the azure armour, after the ceremony, complimented them, wishing they might attain no

less

less honour than the dignity of the order requir'd, to whom they returned thanks for his kind wishes and benediction, and then mounted again on horse-back. Soon after the knight in white armour with rage advanced against Arfileo, with high words and haughty speeches, saying, Now, sir knight, if you with weapon dare defend your proud answer sent me by my page, you have time to do it. Arfileo made no answer, but turning his horse, and taking as much ground as would serve for his career, couched his lance against his adversary, who with great fury met him in the middle of the course, encountering so vigorously, that their lances flew all to pieces; and meeting body to body, the knight of the cattle fell headlong to the ground, over the horse's crupper, and the like almost happen'd to Arfileo, but that he fell on his feet, with the saddle between his legs, by the breaking of the girths; then each recovering himself, they laid hold on their swords of excellent temper, and struck such horrible blows on their helmets, that astonished the beholders, their companions, the blood flowing in great abundance.

Don Bellianis something doubting the event, seeing with what nimbleness the knight of the cattle fought, though much more wounded than Don Arfileo, stepp'd to the princess Aurora, and desir'd leave of her that he might take his turn with the knight of the azure armour, to which (though unwilling) she consented. Whereupon he went to the knight in the blue armour, and said, Valiant sir, it may seem uncourteous in me, there being no occasion for our fighting, but the danger of our friends, I beg the favour of breaking a lance with you, to which the other replied, with all my heart, on condition that either of us may help his friend in case

of

of necessity ; to which the prince answer'd, nothing was more agreeable to him, so both of them chose such part of the ground as they thought most proper ; then with their lances couch'd, they ran against each other with such force, that their lances flew in shivers into the air, and almost out of sight, yet stirred one another no more than if they had been castles mounted, which greatly amazed the blue knight of the castle, he never heretofore failing of dismounting all that encounter'd him ; so with raging fury he ran against Don Bellianis, who also mov'd forward to meet the blue knight, but before he could put himself in a posture of defence with his shield, receiv'd such a wonderful blow that bow'd him to his horse's neck ; but on a little recovery, and seeing another blow a coming, he defended himself with his shield, and with wonderful dexterity and strength gave the blue knight such a stroke on his helmet as almost fell'd him to the ground, and the horse on his knees : thus they continued to maintain a most dreadful battle, to the amazement of themselves and all the beholders : at last Don Bellianis impatiently grieving that he should be thus foiled, took his excellent sword, and raising himself in his stirrups, designed with one blow to end the dispute, but the knight of the castle recovering himself with his shield, and with unparallel'd judgment seeing the blow coming directly on his head, clos'd with Don Bellianis, who had not room enough to wound the knight of the castle but a little with the sword hilt : but Don Bellianis exerting himself with all his might, so grappled with the knight, that he hoisted him almost out of the saddle : thus long they struggled together, not knowing who should be victor, when just at that instant issued out of an adjacent wood thirty knights
and

and four giants, who seeing the azure knight in such danger, rush'd all of them together, to fall on Don Bellianis, who taking an opportunity of disengaging himself from the blue knight, he mounted his horse without his stirrups, with such agility as made all to wonder, as tho' he had been doing nothing all that day; and with great intrepidity rush'd in among the knights, and at three blows slew three of them outright.

The prince Arfileo at this time withdrew himself, to recover a little breath, (as did also his antagonist) and seeing his friend in such danger, not regarding his adversary, leap'd on his horse, as did also the two old knights that came with the princes, but all to little purpose, against the knights join'd with the knights of the castle. Now we are here to take notice, that the two first knights. viz. he in azure armour was Don Bellaneo, the emperor; and the other in white armour was Don Brianel (that attended the Emperor when he went in search of his son Don Bellianis) who was knighted by the Emperor; but the Emperor remained in the castle unknown, (to prevent the design of Don Gallaneo) who he was, till he had an opportunity of getting to Constantinople, which in a little time he did, to the unspeakable joy of all his subjects, who after so long absence of danger, was receiv'd as if risen from the dead.

C H A P. IV.

Of the fight between the Emperor and the princes, against Don Gallaneo and his men; and how Don Bellianis and his company departed undiscover'd who they were; and what happen'd to him and his cousin, with the three ladies in the dangerous grove.

AFTER the Emperor had dispatch'd a messenger to Constantinople, he resolv'd to assist the knights that maintained a dreadful battle with the four giants and their troops.

When Don Gallaneo saw his knights were deceived, he with great outcries uncovering his face, called to them, whom they presently knew, and immediately left the fight with the princes, and ran to embrace him; to whom Don Gallaneo said, Now, my knights, is the time for you to assist me in my revenge against him who weareth my armour (for we are here to understand, that the white armour worn by Don Brianel, did belong to Don Gallaneo, from whom the Emperor had won it in combat, and had given it to Don Brianel) which is the emperor of Constantinople, whom if we slay, our enterprize is at an end. At which the knights with applause and universal consent, with their troops attacked the Emperor and Don Brianel of Macedon, was with him as aforesaid.

But when Don Bellianis and Don Arfileo understood he was the Emperor his father, grieved with much sorrow, at what had befall him; but immediately he and Don Arfileo with eager fury set upon those traiterous knights: but the fierce giants opposed with strong and mighty blows; and one of them with a huge iron mace struck at the Emperor,
who

who warded the blow with his shield, otherwise he would have been dash'd in pieces ; but the Emperor gave him a strong and puissant blow on the arms, that he dropp'd the mace, and with a home thrust pierc'd his body to the heart, so that he fell dead to the earth ; but notwithstanding the Emperor was in great danger, for his horse was fallen to the ground with the blow of the mace designed on the Emperor, who with the horse, fell with his leg under him, so that the Emperor could not rise. At which Don Gallaneo taking the advantage with two of the giants, came with his sword, and they with their iron maces, intending to strike off his head ; when Don Bellianis saw his father in such extremity, hastened to his assistance, but before he came Don Gallaneo had wounded the Emperor on the head ; and the giants at the same time thought to dash his brains out, but Don Bellianis making at Don Gallaneo, at one blow overthrew him horse and all ; but then he was assaulted with hellish fury by the fell and furious giants, who laid on him, particularly about his head, which made him to stagger and totter, as he had much ado to keep on his feet, but resuming courage, with a fierce blow struck one of the deformed monsters, and cleft him down to the twist, who fell bellowing to the ground : yet the fight grew more bloody and fierce, for Don Brianel and Don Arfileo, with eight other knights that join'd them out of the castle, were engaged with the knights and the other giant, who were much superior in number ; Don Arfileo engaged the giant, and the knights the knights ; at which interim the Emperor hastened to their assistance, but e'er the Emperor came, Don Arfileo had worsted the giant, and overthrew him, who was dragg'd by his horse (his foot being in the stirrup) along the ground, whereby

whereby, and his wounds together, he soon breathed his last. But still there issued out of the woods more armed knights, in great number, so that the battle began again afresh, and the Emperor, though sorely wounded, with inimitable courage and valour, encounter'd his enemies, and with great and puissant force, assisted by some timely succours from Constantinople, under the command of his cousin the king of Hungary, and of Don Bellianis, who was near at hand, they withstood their mighty foes, and with such prowess and success, that they overthrew all in their way, and vanquish'd all that opposed them: Don Gallaneo was slain, which, when the knights, his confederate associates saw, they were so dispirited that they gave way, and were totally routed, and almost all cut to pieces: And thus ended that terrible and bloody battle.

The Emperor seeing such martial deeds performed by Don Bellianis, and knowing by this accidental adventure, that he was his son, he wept for joy (never expecting more to see him) and embraced him with the most paternal tenderness and love: And the prince with no less filial duty and respect, express'd his joy for once more seeing so good and tender a father, for whose safety he was under great solicitude, and blest his propitious stars that guided his steps to the place, at so critical an hour, to be somewhat instrumental to his father's safe-guard.

The Emperor and his retinue were design'd for Constantinople, but he was not accompanied by Don Bellianis, because he had another adventure to finish of wonderful consequence, and after ceremonies of taking leave, Don Bellianis and his cousin Arfileo departed; and after they had travel'd about three miles, they ascended a vast high mountain in search of medicinal herbs, for the cure of their wounds

wounds, where the damsels that were with them, whose skill in medicine excell'd all professors of that art, found such sanative vegetables, upon whose application, on the parts aggrieved, gave them wonderful ease, and a speedy cure: But suddenly they, to their amazement, saw a glorious chariot, like to transparent cristall, wheeling thro' the air, drawn by six huge and ugly griffins, that put the princess Aurora and her camels in great fear and consternation, and the princes, when, from out of which chariot came two dwarfs, who addressing themselves to Don Bellianis, said, they came from the sage Bellona, and that she had sent him and Don Arisco, his cousin, in this chariot to save themselves with the ladies from imminent danger that threatened them.

No sooner had they mounted the chariot, but they were swiftly whirled through the air, by the griffins, and they were in a very short time within the kingdom of Persia, and near to the great city Persepolis.

The griffins descended on a desolate mountain, and hard by a dark and moist obscure grove or cave, out of which came an old woman of above two hundred years of age, who, indeed was the sage Bellona; and the princess seeing her, with great respect, very courteously saluted her: And she said that she had within the cave, Don Brianel of Macedon, under her care, for the cure of his wounds: Then Don Bellianis enquired of her, concerning the Emperor his father; who reply'd, he was well, lusty and merry: Then desiring to see Don Brianel, they were conducted, by her, to a room, where was Don Brianel walking alone, and cur'd of his wounds, but remain'd very pale, by the loss of much blood: Then he enquired after the Emperor and

Don

Don Bellianis, and his cousin Arfileo, (for he did not see them, tho' they did him) knowing they were all engaged in the battle against Don Gallaneo and his knights; and being guided by Bellona to the chamber where they were, and upon his seeing Don Bellianis, bended his knee, and desired to kiss his hand; but the prince kindly took him up, and said, I greatly rejoice to see you so well, as you appear to be, thanks be to this lady that took such care of your safety, and of us all.

In these and like speeches continued they 'till supper-time, and having plentifully eat together, Bellona, after supper, taking Don Bellianis apart, said to him, you are in an enemies country, who seeks your life with implacable malice, especially on account of your religion, you being a christian, and he a pagan: But you are by your invincible arm to reinstate the princess Aurora into her usurp'd dominions; and to that end you are to go to the Sultan of Babylon's court, where you are to bear the same device in your shield, 'till I advise you to the contrary; to whom he return'd his humble thanks, and promised to follow her direction in all things relating thereto.

Don Bellianis was clad in armour of a tawny colour, curiously beset with orient pearls, of glorious beauty and immense worth; and on his shield was pourtray'd the image of the princess Florisbella, the Sultan of Babylon's daughter, which, tho' the princess Aurora knew, yet she said nothing. The armour of Don Arfileo, was like what he had in the cave; and Don Brianel, of divers and glorious colours.

Then taking their leave of the sage Bellona, she presented each of them with a dwarf to attend them as pages.

CHAP. V.

*What happen'd to Don Bellianis and his companions,
with duke Alfyron, fir-nam'd the Courteous; and of
the ad-venture of the bridge.*

IN the order that the sage Bellona dismis'd the princes, they travel'd with great and singular pleasure, and were not discourag'd at any thing, and proceeded on their way, towards a castle within three miles of the city of Antioch, of which castle they were inform'd by the princess, that it was very strong, and almost impregnable, having never been won by any foreign force; and that she and her damsels would remain there 'till they could further determine on their affairs. But they had not gone far on their way, but they saw advancing towards them on the same road, a great number of knights, accoutred in the finest habiliments of war, as might astonish all beholders; at which Don Bellianis accosted the foremost of them, that seem'd a most glorious knight, and said, pray, Sir knight, inform me, unto whom doth this fair company of knights belong? The other answer'd, We belong, Sir knight, to duke Alfyron the Courteous, that is now going to the city of Persepolis, because the Great Sophy hath appointed great triumphs and joustings, to whom he hath invited all his nobles, and the greatest knights of the empire: Pray what is the occasion of such great feasting and entertainments? Why, answer'd the other, 'tis because not long since, he promis'd his only daughter in marriage to any knight whatsoever, that should overcome and kill the Emperor of Greece, or take him prisoner, by reason of a long pique or grutch that he hath

borne to the said Emperor ; and *Don Gallaneo* the second, of *Antioch*, hath undertaken it, because not long since his brother, *Don Gallaneo*, the first, was slain in an engagement with the said Emperor, so that partly out of revenge, and partly in expectation of so great and fair a prize, as a reward of such a bold undertaking, tho' duke *Alfyron*, our master, doth not at all approve of the match, because the princess *Persiana* (that being the name of the *Sophy's* daughter) first favour'd, and that greatly too, our said master.

The prince hearing all this, said, I am much satisfied with your information ; and committing you to your good fortune, I take my leave. Then turning to his friends, *Don Brianel* and *Arfile* told them the discourse between him and the knight and ask'd if they were willing to see those justins at *Persepolis*, before they went forward on their intended adventures ? to which they readily consented and being thus resolv'd, stood still 'till the whole of those troops of gallant knights past by.

The Duke being told of the gallant behaviour and comely mein of the three knights, was desirous to see and speak with them. The duke's armour was of the same colour with *Don Bellianis's*, on which he wore a most rich coat embroider'd with gold and pearls of the greatest beauty and value and on his rich shield was pictured the god of love and addressing himself to *Don Bellianis*, whose gallant appearance, surpriz'd the duke with sudden admiration, said in a mild and affable tone (which was the common way of address, and gain'd him the name of Courteous) I am greatly astonish'd, and exceeding pleas'd with your brave and gallant demeanour, most noble knight, and because, I suppose you are going to see the triumphs at *Persepolis*

polis, to which place I myself am going, and should rejoice in, and be proud of your good company thither, and also of the two gallant knights, your friends, because in these parts you seem to be strangers, and of some remote country. To which *Don Bellianis* reply'd, Most noble duke, your exceeding courtesy and bountiful offers are much more than we deserve, yet to fulfil your kind and condescending request, we are willing, and gladly acquiesce to accompany you as humble servants, to attend your commands: To which answer the duke rejoiced, and seemed exceedingly pleased, but said, I fear our thoughts have been to imploy'd in discourse, that we have lost our way; but *Don Bellianis* seeing the city, if that be it, this is the way that will bring us thither: So it will, said the duke, but we must not pass this bridge, for it will be mightily defended: Who be they, said *Don Bellianis*, that can defend it against such knights as our company is compos'd of? Yes they will, reply'd the duke, against all the world; for there are four such knights, and all brothers too, that once upon a time, when there was a battle between the Sophy and the Sultan of Babylon, these very four knights, by their own proper valour and prowess, won the victory, and therefore reputed the strongest knights in the universe: And when the Sophy ask'd what they requir'd of him, as a reward for their valour? Demanded only the keeping the castle and this bridge, that no knights might go that way, unless they would leave their armour and horses with them, in token of their submission, and of the others victory; otherwise, he (tho' a single knight) was oblig'd to fight with and overcome them all, and then he might pass that way, and upon no other terms, which the Sophy granted, with ample and sufficient revenues

to maintain them under such an haughty undertaking. So they being come to the bridge and castle they were to keep, they brought with them two mighty and strong giants, whose force was such, that they were suppos'd able to encounter even an hundred knights at once, and these knights and giants have for above three years defended the passage.

The princes greatly wonder'd at the relation the duke : But *Don Bellianis*, the mirror of all gallantry and hardiness, said, Most noble lord, if please your grace to let us, we will try our fortune in this adventure : To whom the duke reply'd, will be accounted madness, rather than true valor for you to attempt it, for it is altogether impossible for one man, if he had the strength of Hercules or the force of Hector, to vanquish them ; for even the most inferior of them is able to engage the Emperor of Constantinople himself, whose name is much dreaded in these parts ; therefore let me intreat you to desist from the enterprize, since there is so much danger and hazard in it. To whom *Don Bellianis* answer'd, If thro' fear, this adventure should not be try'd by us, it would be a perpetual blot to our fame, and blast and wither all the laurels that we have hitherto gain'd by our former enterprizes and attempts in chivalry.

While they were thus talking, they saw, on the other side of the bridge, a great number of knights and ladies cloath'd in a most triumphal manner who were coming thither, in order to divert themselves. What fine and glorious company is that said *Don Bellianis*. It is, perhaps, said the duke the Sophy and his daughter, the most excellent and most admirable the princess Persiana, that come to see if there arrive any adventure to the bridge which

under which to see would please them, tho' it were to our utmost shame and confusion: However, let the success be what it will, I'll venture my fortune, said *Don Bellianis*: Do as you think fit, said the duke, tho' I could wish you would take another way. Whereupon they took forward, directly towards the bridge, and commanded all the knights of their company to do the like.

The prince, *Don Arfileo*, beg'd of *Don Bellianis* that he would grant him the first trial. I will not, said he: But because I see *Don Gallaneo*, the second, yonder, put on a coat over your armour, because I would not have it known. I will, said *Arfileo*, but you must grant me the first combat, because it belongs to me. To whom *Don Bellianis* reply'd, Since in this journey I am the conductor of these ladies, I am, and I think I ought to be so, that is, their champion, and therefore should be the first in the attempt, To which reply'd *Don Arfileo*, We have accompanied them as long as you, and therefore the case remains indifferent. That is true, said *Don Brianel*, and therefore let him begin, whom the princess *Aurora* shall command. You need not be thus solicitous about the matter, said the duke, for you will all have enough to do. Then said the princess *Aurora*, My sentiments is, that *Don Brianel* have the first battle; but submit to your will, most gracious duke: And after him, your grace: And he that would be first, let him be last. At which *Don Bellianis* seem'd a little fretted that he should be last: At which the duke smil'd, as thinking that all their labour would be in vain, were they to go altogether, and every one to begin first.

Well, being come to the bridge, *Don Brianel* advanced foremost, seeing that company on the other side advanced to the bridge also, and stepping there-

on, a knight arm'd in armour of divers colours mounted on a mighty horse, coming towards him said to *Don Brianel*, What madness doth possess you, to intend a passage over this bridge, which by me defended? I matter not your high vaunting said *Don Brianel*, but desire you to prepare for battle: Whereupon the knight in fierce anger turn'd his horse, and took such a space of the bridge as would serve for his course, and *Don Brianel* did the like. All those with the duke, and the people from the city, drew near to view the encounter. At which instant the knights having turn'd the horses, ran against each other with such fury and violence, that their lances flew all to pieces, and the knight of the bridge was borne to the ground (which was never seen before of any of the brethren so bruised; and *Don Brianel* was very near doing the like, but with admirable courage and magnanimity, prepar'd for the second attack; when upon the other three knights and the two giants started, mounted on gallant and large horses, seeing their brother on the earth, one of them advanced towards *Don Brianel* (who was prepared for him with another lance (taken from his page) they advanced against each other with such puissant force that their lances shiver'd into a thousand pieces, and then meeting with their horses, and themselves body to body, with shields and helmets, they with the force came both to the ground, (but *Don Brianel* would not have suffered the mishap, if his horse had been as good as his adversary's). Then those of the castle and bridge closed with the opportunity, and thought to have disarm'd *Don Brianel*; which the prince *Arfileo* seeing, in great rage enter'd on the bridge; so also did another of the adverse party and encounter'd each other with great fierceness

but

but again the second knight of the bridge was also overthrown, a piece of the lance sticking in his side; at which the Sophy, and those of his company were much astonish'd, and greatly wonder'd, because they were accounted the greatest and best knights in the whole world, except he that advanced next, the biggest and best of the four brothers, who came against Arfileo, resolving to revenge his brother's death, but he also fail'd in his design, for he was with violence brought to the earth with a great wound in his body; but *Don Arfileo's* horse, with a terrible stroke, was stun'd and recoil'd backward, so that *Arfileo* thought fit to quit him; which he did with admirable dexterity and nimbleness, tho' he had received a wound in his breast, which the servants of the castle observing, and seeing him on foot, thought to do to him, as they intended to *Don Brianel*; but the first that attempted, for his presumption lost his head, by *Don Arfileo's* sharp and excellent sword. Then the two brothers, that *Don Brianel* had unhors'd, came with their drawn swords, as did also the two giants: And on the other side *Don Bellianis* and the duke, so that there began a confus'd and terrible fight; but by the command of the Sophy, they were parted.

Then arose a dispute, whether *Don Brianel* and *Don Arfileo*, had not, by their puissant prowess and valour, won the passage of the bridge: But it was answer'd, in that he forsook his horse, it might be justly reckon'd that he was unhors'd by the shock of the encounter, and therefore he ought to forfeit his horse and armour, according to the usual custom: But *Don Bellianis* strenuously opposed it, saying, It was not by the force of his adversary, that he left the saddle, and therefore he ought not to lose his horse: So that at last, after many argu-

ments, it was left to the decision of the Sophy, who adjudg'd, that he should lose neither horse nor armour, but that he should be accounted vanquish'd, and to enter the list no more : At which sentence, a proud knight that attended on the Sophy, was disgusted, which occasion'd high words between him and *Don Bellianis*, whom he challeng'd to combat, and *Don Bellianis* accepted it, and accordingly they began the encounter : The proud knight, (for so we will call him) hit, with very great force, *Don Bellianis's* shield in the middle, but the rare temper'd steel remain'd impenetrable to the furious iron, and so did not hurt him, or stir him in the saddle, tho' the other broke his own lance : Then *Don Bellianis* in rage resolving to hit him, by his over eagerness, happen'd to miss his aim, and their horses past by each other with incredible fury and swiftneſs ; but *Don Bellianis* returning again upon the knight that had lost his lance, scorn'd to draw his sword upon so vile, worthless and insolent a man, but with wonderful strength, and being nimble, snatch'd him between his strong arms, (as if he had been but a little child) and stept to the bridge side, and tumbled him headlong over it, into the river, where by the weight of his armour he sank to the bottom, and was drown'd : At which all that saw it, with wonder and amazement admir'd, particularly the Sophy, at the surprizing performance, the Sophy crying out, Oh ye gods ! what wonderful strength is there in this one single knight ! Then one of the knights of the bridge advanced forward against him, and *Don Bellianis* was as forward to meet him, which happen'd to be in the middle of the bridge, and lost one of his stirrups in the encounter, and both meeting horses, shields, and body to body, the knight of the bridge was overthrown, and sore
bruise'd

bruis'd with the fall, and his head grievously battered'd and broken; and *Don Bellianis's* horse was so shock'd, that he seem'd unmoveable, 'till *Don Bellianis* with his spurs quicken'd him, and made him to fly like a whirl-wind, 'till he came where the Sophy and his company were, who all admired his valour and exceeding prowess. Then with great fury advanced one of the giants towards him with his lance, (tho' the prince was without one) but the prince drawing his sword, in the career, cut the giant's lance in two, and with wonderful dexterity, turning his horse short, let the monster pass by him, who with his own weight and ungovernable rage, ran headlong, horse and all, to the ground, and made the very earth shake with his fall, and sadly bruis'd himself thereby. Then came the knight that first justed with *Don Brianel*, but *Don Bellianis* (that expected him) was prepared, and nimbly turning about, made him lose his blow; and then in an instant, turning quick upon him, snatcht his lance out of his hand, and therewith, at one blow fell'd him to the earth; and returning to his place, brandishing it over his head with great joy, and to the amazement of all the spectators. Then return'd unto him again, the monstrous giant, having recover'd himself, and foam'd like a wild boar, and laid on him as he would have beaten down an oak, and wounded him very much; but both meeting in close fight, *Don Bellianis*, with admirable agility and surprizing strength, made the giant measure his length on the ground: Then all the knights of the bridge fell upon him at once, but he so bravely defended himself with his sword, as if he had but to deal with one man; 'till *Don Brianel* and *Don Arfileo* came with their timely assistance, and then they made such a havock amongst the knights of

the bridge, that they were not able to stand before them, beating down one and slaying another. So that in the end they overcome all their adversaries, and so had the liberty of the bridge, and put an end to the adventure.



C H A P. VI.

What happen'd to Don Bellianis without the city of Persepolis, and how deliver'd two damsels from certain knights, and whence they were; and how slew the dragon of the Rishian wood.

BEING without the city of Persepolis, alighting from his horse, he saw two damsels coming towards him, riding on their palfreys, in great haste, and seeming to flee from some danger that pursued them: Don Bellianis stepping before them said, what is the matter (fair ladies) that forceth you to make such speed? to which they said, O, for heaven's sake stop us not, and if you will save your own life, follow us, and by the way we will tell you the circumstances of the whole affair; to whom he said, it will be better for you to hide yourselves among these trees; to which they consented; and when they were about to tell the story of their adventure, to their great amazement and fright they beheld through the trees the most terrible dragon that ever the world produced; and tho' the night was dark, yet his eyes so sparkled, and flam'd like two burning torches, the ladies being struck with horror, and overcome with fear, with dismal shrieks and cries,

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aries,
and
the knight, and their terror was so great, that they had not power to flee. The knight immediately took his sword, and made against the hellish monster, heartily wishing instead of what he had, that he had the armour given by Bellona, and buckled about his body for his defence: at this instant, the dragon, with infernal fury, flew against the knight, and had like to have overthrown him, returning to catch him with his talons, and so to pluck him to pieces; but the knight, who was a stranger to fear, leap'd aside, but with great difficulty; for being over reach'd, the cruel monster drew him to him with one of his paws, and pierc'd through his armour and flesh, almost to the bones, with his deadly claws: but the knight forsaking his sword, took his dagger and stabb'd him therewith, four or five times under his wings, to his very heart: then the dreadful beast, thro' extream pain left him, and stretching himself upon the earth died in great agonies. His bigness was almost beyond belief, being twenty five foot long, and as great as an ox, the like being never seen.

After this noble action and unequal battle, he went to the damsels, and said to them, Now ladies lay aside your fear, for the causer of it lies yonder dead, almost covered in his own blood, to which they could hardly make any reply, for their excess of joy, on account of their deliverance; but on a little recovery they expressed themselves in the highest terms of gratitude, and begg'd him to withdraw into the forest, where, undisturb'd, they might dress his wounds, which he consented to. After which he mounted on horseback, tho' with great pain, and the damsels on their palfreys, designing for the city: by the way he said, pray ladies give me an account of the occasion of your flight,

flight, to whom they answered, Know then, most noble knight, that we belong to the most excellent princess Florisbella, who sent us to a wise woman, which dwelleth on a high, craggy, and barren mountain, whose name is Bellona, to know the fortune of the beautiful princess Aurora, of whom no news has been heard since the death of Pompi-ano her father, who was traitorously slain by Don Gallaneo, and we come disguised to inform ourselves if by any means we can hear of her. And not far from hence we were surprized by a most fearful and monstrous giant, accompanied with about twenty knights, each almost as big as himself, who having taken us in the close of the day, and we seeing at a distance some other knights, about the same in number, cried out to them for help, and they yielded to our desire, but the giant and his knights at the first onset unhors'd above half of them, we seeing the ill success of the knights, and fearing the dreadful consequence, betook ourselves to flight, trusting to the swiftness of our palfreys till we met you, and still we continue fearful, lest those uncivil knights should overtake us before we reach the city.

No sooner had they given this account, but they descried three men clad in armour, who knew the damsels, and speaking aloud, said, now is our travel at an end; for we have found what we sought.

The ladies perceiving them to be giant's knights, were so overwhelmed with fear, they were ready to fall from their palfreys; to whom the knights said, you shall not escape us, but shall go to our lord and master, the giant Felliston; who sent us for you.

Don Bellianis hearing their insolence, grew desperately enrag'd, and said thus to them, worthy knights, as you seem to be, by your outward appearance,

pearance, but by your carriage to these beautiful ladies, you seem to be quite otherwise.

We thought (reply'd they) that you might have been contented with your own liberty, and not to interpose in favour of theirs, but since you know not when you are well, you shall also go along with us; and so saying they attempted to bind him; at which snatching a lance out of one of their hands, and in despite of him and his friends, tumbled him headlong to the ground: the others would have struck with their spears, but he warily avoided their blows, and fiercely running at one of them, thrust the lance through his body, that lifeless he came to the ground.

The third struck at him most mightily, but to little purpose, except wounding him in the thigh, at which Don Bellianis gave his adversary so vast a blow, that parted his body in twain, and so completed his victory over these three dastardly knights.

Immediately after this conquest Don Bellianis, with his friends, sat out for the sultan's palace, and address'd himself to the sophy with all humility, but he chang'd colour at the sight of the duke, as one whom he mortally hated, because he thought he was the cause of the deaths of Don Gallaneo and Don Galreo; and during the debate of accusing and excusing, there enter'd the hall three mighty giants, the fiercest and ugliest that human nature could produce: They were all armed except their heads, and their helmets and shields were born by their 'squires, and were also attended on by thirty knights, not much less in stature than themselves: and addressing the sultan in a roaring and hollow voice spake thus: Most high and mighty lord, out of due respect and deference to your most excellent majesty

majesty, we come from far to defend your honour, and maintain your magnificent glory.

Be pleased then to know that I am the king of Cyprus, and known by the name of Feliston the fiercer, and brother to these two knights here present; and hearing that you intended a marriage between the princess Persiana and our cousin Don Gallaneo or Antioch, we came to honour the nuptials: And as we drew near this city, three of my knights, whom I sent in search of two damsels of my company, were basely slain by one who goeth by the name of the knight of the golden image, of whom strange things are reported concerning his valour: And also, we are inform'd, that he and duke Alfyron most treacherously slew the princess, Don Gallaneo, and Don Galseo, in journey; and we hear also, that the princess Persiana was consenting thereto: And therefore we do accuse the said duke Alfyron, the knight of the golden image, and also the princess Persiana, as authors and actors of their deaths; and therefore they are traitors, and malefactors, and I challenge them as such to the combat, or any that will appear for them, to prove what I have asserted to be true.

The Duke and Don Bellianis hearing themselves thus insulted and call'd traitors, were mov'd to the highest degree of indignation: And the duke reply'd to the giant's speech, saying, We have heard of you before; and now, by experience, see thy great pride, and haughtiness of heart; and since thou accusest myself, and the knight of the golden image, with treacherously slaying Don Gallaneo, and Don Galseo, I reply, thou falsly lyest in thy throat; and I am ready, ready to prove it myself, in battle with thee, or by my champion.

The prince Arfileo all this while was ready to burst with rage, but yet moderately said, as touching the knight of the golden image: I reply, as did the most noble duke, that thou lyest in thy throat; and, therefore, bring with the one of thy monstrous brothers, or any one else whom thou wilt, (because thou wilt not stay 'till the knight of the golden image's wounds are cured, and I myself will supply his place; for he is not a knight that by treachery would have procured Don Gallaneo's or Gaisco's death, except he had been forced there-to, thro' his great treasons; who, with his cousin also, vilely and basely went about to murder him in his bed

Then Don Brianel dissembling his anger, and in seeming merriment, said: I think, king, knight, or giant, or what thou wilt; thou thought, perhaps, thy challenge would not have been accepted, because we are not so large in bigness, or so monstrous in deformity with thyself; but know, that in the prince's Persiana's name, I will make the third in combat. The giant was so enraged with these courageous returns of speech, that he was ready, several times, to lay hold on his boisterous battle-axe, to dash out their brains, thinking he could fight a hundred of them, all at once: But Don Brianel smiling, said: Be not in such a passion, fir monster, tho' thy vanity suffer thee to think, that thou art able to encounter such knights as we are a together, we scorn to enter the battle with such advantage.

Then the Sultan commanded silence, and said, That whereas the king of Cyprus hath accused three knights, the like number must be against him; but that as the duke was accused, he must not act himself, but chuse him a champion: Neither the knight
of

of the golden image, because also accused, and because of his wounds: And that Don Arfileo was in behalf of him; and Don Brianel his companion in behalf of my daughter; and therefore you must, says he to the duke, provide yourself a champion in twelve days.

Then was the duke and princes, by the sophy's command guarded to strong towers of confinement.

After which Arfileo and Don Brianel returned to the duke's palace to tell Don Bellianis of the whole affair, whom they found somewhat better; and hearing what they related, in great anger started from his bed, and in great haste called for his cloaths, and the damsels seeing him so determined, intreated him not to do it; but it nothing availed, tho' the princess Aurora also used arguments to the same purpose, and going through the city to the sophy's palace, he was known by the populace, who said, there goes the knight that overcame the knights of the bridge, and the knights that pursued the damsels, and that also killed the terrible dragon of the wood.

When he was come to the palace it was told the sophy, who was at dinner, with the king of Cyprus and his brothers, he commanded that he should be admitted to his presence

Is this the knight of the golden image, said the kings, whom we come to accuse and challenge.

Yes, this is he, reply'd the sophy, and there is not his equal under the sun for strength and valour, that may be, said the king, among such as himself but it would be a blot in my escutcheon, and to my great dishonour if I feared a hundred such as he.

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You wrong yourself to think so, reply'd the Sultan, for if he should enter the fight, I could not for my soul assure you of the victory. Notwithstanding this reply of the Sophy, the king press'd hard for the combat: And Don Bellianis as strenuously urged, that he might be champion for the duke: But the Sultan remain'd inflexible, and was resolv'd, that the knight of the golden image should not be a combatant in this affair, but that duke Alfyrion should seek him another champion.



C H A P. VII.

How Don Bellianis made his escape, out of the tower, in disguise; and borrowing armour of Don Contumeliano of Phœnicia, return'd unknown into the city; and of the terrible fight with the giant king of Cyprus, and his brethren.

ALL necessary preparations being made for the combat, and Don Arfileo, and Don Brianel, ready also for the same. Ten, of the twelve days (allow'd by the Sophy) were expir'd, and the duke yet unprovided of a champion; which grieved him to the very heart, since he was not to be admitted (as by the Sophy's order) to combat for himself.

The manner of Don Bellianis's escape, was thus: He perceiving the night's approach, he put on Floriana's apparel (one of the damsels belonging to the princess Florisbella) in whose dress, he became wonderfully fair, and beautifully charming; so that none could distinguish him from the fairest lady in the world, and so he easily pass'd unknown; and

Floriana

Floriana was to supply his place, with the strictest orders, that none should approach his chamber, least they should disturb him, under his great indisposition.

Don Bellianis, when out of the city, retir'd to an adjacent grove, where he was very pensive, considering what to do.

When there came by a knight gallantly mounted and in the finest armour (except *Don Bellianis's* own in the world; being of a yellowish colour, most finely burnish'd and curiously engrav'd, and adorned with pearls and jewels of an inestimable value and his shield was bedeck'd with the same, and on it portraid a large mountain, with a knight lying under an oak; which, when his helmet was off *Don Bellianis* knew to be *Don Contumeliano* of *Phœnicia*; and embracing each other, *Don Bellianis* told him the whole story, and reason of his disguise; and also told him, what an infinite obligation he would lay upon him, if he would but lend him his armour. To which the other readily comply'd, and blowing a shrill blast on a horn, immediately appear'd his page, whom he commanded to go to the city and fetch him his cloaths, which were the richest in all the world: Which being brought, the page helpt to disarm his master, with whole armor *Don Bellianis* was immediately equipped and leaving his virgin's apparel with the page, he took leave of the knight, and went forwards to the city. Where being arrived, he went presently to *Don Contumeliano's* lodgings, who being at the door, readily knew him, but to each other spake not a word; and *Don Contumeliano* taking another horse, follow'd *Don Bellianis* to the place, to see the end of the adventure: Where, by the way, they were greatly admired, the one for the richness of

his armour, and the other for the sumptuousness of his apparel.

Don Bellianis alighted at the court gate, giving his horse to Contumeliano's page; and sending the Sultan word of their coming, they were introduced to his presence, who was then talking to the king of Cyprus, who then, with his brothers, were arming themselves for the battle. The Sultan seeing the knights make so glorious an appearance, much commended them: And courteously demanding what they had to say, Don Bellianis answered, Dread sir, command that duke Alfyrøn be sent for, and then you shall know what we require. Whereupon the Sultan sent for him immediately, who came guarded with a thousand armed men; and not knowing the cause of his being sent for, grieved very much; as knowing that day to be the last for the tryal of his cause, and that he had no champion to defend it by fight: Whereupon, Don Bellianis seeing him, with an audible and loud voice, said, Most mighty Sultan, know, that I am call'd the Solitary Knight, and son of the king of Phœnicia; and arriving in this your kingdom, have heard of this cause between the king of Cyprus and duke Alfyrøn the Courteous, whom I well know, and well assur'd, that he would not act any thing against the law, or the honour of knighthood; and to be brief, I am resolv'd to undertake and fight the combat for him, and intreat him to grant me leave so to do.

All parties being now come to the field, and each in their several pavilions, waiting for the Sultan's coming; which when arrived and seated, he gave orders for the charge; whereupon, suddenly, the earth seem'd to shake with the noise, and sound of drums and trumpets, so that the knights could not hear

hear one another: Then the knights came forth from their pavilions (which were hard by the pances Periana) and mounting their horses, expected the coming of the giants, who then appear'd in sight; and at the sign from the Sophy the fight began with such fury, that the encounter seem'd like sudden flashes of lightening, rending the aerial orb; and as if so many pieces of ordnances had been discharg'd.

Arfileo and *Don Brianel* engaged the king of Cyprus's two brothers, with such fierceness that all four came to the ground: *Don Bellianis's* shield was pierced thro' the middle, and also thro' the breast-plate; and with so violent a shock, that the king lost his stirrups; and then meeting body to body, the devilish giant having nothing to stay his feet, fell to the ground; and *Don Bellianis* had like to have done the same, but that he caught hold of his horse's neck. None is able to express the amazement of the spectators, at so brave an encounter, having never seen the like. *Don Bellianis* resolving to lose no time, was alighted from his horse, when the king made towards him, with more enrag'd fury than a fresh baited bull: But *Bellianis* seeing *Brianel* in some danger, by his foot hanging in the stirrup, nimbly mounted and ran against the giant, his antagonist, and brought him to the ground; and then leaping from his saddle, went to help *Brianel*, but was hinder'd by the coming of the king, and then he was oblig'd to prepare against his attack, who with a battle-axe thought to have cleft his head in twain; but the knight dextrously avoiding the stroke, the axe fell into the earth a yard deep; and then going to the king, he was assaulted by his brother, whom he before overthrew, and received from him a desperate blow on his helmet, which almost bow'd

bow'd him to the earth; which so enrag'd the knight, that he return'd the giant so puissant a blow on his helmet, as cut it in two parts, and deeply wounded him on the head, so that his simiter fell from his hand, and hardly knew whether he was alive or dead; but the knight's sword was broke in two pieces, so that he had only the hilt to defend himself: *Don Brianel* was still in great danger, by one foot hanging in the stirrup: The prince *Arfileo* griev'd to see his friends in such extremity, and would have helped them, but his adversary dropping his simiter, flung himself upon him; and the other unable to avoid it, clos'd with him also, and both with excessive strength striving to overthrow each other.

Don Bellianis seeing the fierce giant king making towards him, flung with all his might the hilt of the sword that was in his hand, and fell'd him backward to the ground; and with admirable quickness snatch'd up the fallen simiter, and halted to *Don Brianel*, and with it cut the horse's girths, and set him on his feet. The fierce king forthwith came upon him again, and wounded him by a terrible blow on his thigh; but the knight feeling the smartness of the wound, laid on the giant with mighty strokes; and *Don Brianel* being loosed, with his sword went against the king, but was interrupted by his brother, who fought with a heavy iron mace instead of his simiter, and was fain to avoid his blows, by his nimbleness; the like did prince *Arfileo*, who having let loose his adversary, they engag'd with their swords: In this doubtful state remain'd the battle, having fought five hours, and the giants all besmear'd in blood: But at last, with one bold and brave thrust, *Don Bellianis* wound the giantly king, his adversary, under his arm, so that the sword ran up
to

to the hilt in his body, and even thro' his heart, so that he fell down dead to the earth: And at the same time Don Arfileo, at one blow, cut off his adversary's leg: The like (and almost at the same instant) did Don Brianel to the other giant, his antagonist; and notwithstanding the Sophy's outcries, saying, that he yielded them the victory, he put an end to the adventure, by the end of his life.



C H A P. VIII.

Of the marriage of duke Alfyrion with the princess Persiana; and what strange things happen'd in the justings.

DON Bellianis having convey'd away the princess Persiana to the city of Bolera, unknown to the Sultan, thought that a proper place, and a proper time, to consummate the marriage between her and duke Alfyrion, who for a long time had borne to each other the most strong and mutual affection, and tenderest love: Tho' against her will, she was design'd by the Sultan, her father, for Don Gallaneo, who is now dead, (as was said before) she was at liberty to wed according to her first inclinations. Accordingly the knights, with the duke and princess, being at the city of Bollera: And within fifteen days the knights were cur'd of their wounds; tho' Don Bellianis's wound of heart, for the beautiful princess Florisbella, remain'd incurable, and therefore resolv'd a perpetual pursuit in quest of that most beautiful charmer of his heart: Which if so powerfully wrought on him by the shadow

shadow of her picture, (given him by one of her damsels) what efficacy must the real sight of her have upon his amorous heart.

The day being come for the royal nuptials, every one was provided and ready for the celebration. The princess was lead forth by the gallant Don Bellianis, amidst the loud shouts and acclamations of the people; and when come to the temple this illustrious pair was made one.

The dinner being over they took a dance; in the mean time the knights, the maintainers of the justings, enter'd the list; and they, which that day were challengers, were the prince Arsileo, and Don Contumeliano, and a cousin of his.

And thither came, a little before, a very courageous and most valiant knight, named Don Florispiano, and greatly beloved by the princes, who had the grant of breaking the first lance, which began the justings; and he performed so gallantly, that he unhors'd thirty knights before he lost a stirrup.

At this time came one to the duke from the city gate, telling him that there were four knights arriv'd, who said, That hearing of the festivals, they came that way on purpose to see them, and therefore beg'd leave of the duke, and the good company, that they might be admitted to try their fortunes at the justings and to give joy to the triumphs.

Three of them were in rose colour'd armour, garnish'd with many eagles; and the devices in the shields were all of one kind. viz. the one half white with black eagles, and the other half black with white eagles. The other knight being a larger size, was all over plated in black armour, and in his shield depictur'd the representation of the wheel of fortune, with a knight placed on the top thereof,
from

from whence he seem'd to fall headlong to tumble to the ground, and drag'd by the hand of death, with this motto :

*He well deserveth such a fall ;
That dares engage a knight so tall.*

This knight seem'd the bravest in the world, (except him of the Golden Image) and being in the tilt yard, drew nearer to the place where the duke was ; and speaking in a loud voice, so that all might hear him, said, Which of you, most noble knights, is the chiefest of this glorious assembly whose commands the rest obey ; and yet, by the immortal gods, I think, that all should rather command than obey ?

The duke answer'd, you may begin when you please, sir knight. I am satisfy'd as to that, said the knight ; but I request which of you is duke Alfyron ? I am he, reply'd the duke : But why do you ask this question ?

Because, said the knight, I thought so brave knight as he, and on this day married too, would have maintain'd the list himself, against all adventurers, to see the marriages of other knights. The words somewhat exasperated the duke, that he was going to answer him sharply : But Don Bellianis interpos'd, and taking the knight by the hand, courteously said, You may, sir knight, begin the jousting when you will ; for I assure you, you shall not want one, whereon to employ your valour : Or else it were a shame for the duke to enter the list, on such a day, when he hath so many good knights at his command.

The duke's knights all made way, that the four strange knights might enter the jousts ; which they seeing, one of the knights of the eagles put himself forward against Florispiano, who resting their lances,

gave one another such fierce encounters, that Florispiano lost his stirrup, but holding by his horse's neck did not fall, but his adversary was overthrown to the earth.

Then the black knight, almost choak'd with rage, ran against Florispiano, who with the greatest force, he tumbled to the ground, but bravely shiver'd his lance to pieces.

The black knight prest violently forward, and recover'd one stirrup (which he had lost), and Florispiano was convey'd out of the lists, unarm'd, to recover air; and on recovery, quickly return'd to the field for another encounter.

Then the prince Contumeliano advanced against the knight of fortune, (or black knight) and meeting in the middle of the course, so terrible was their encounter, that the knight of fortune fell backward over his horse's crupper.

Don Bellianis was mightily inquisitive to know who this knight in the black armour was. To whom the princess Persiana, calling softly, told him that it was the prince Periano of Persia, her brother.

Is it possible, said Don Bellianis? It is, reply'd she, for I know him by the expressions he used to us, as well as by his strenuous encounters; therefore look to it, for he came with an intention to kill our duke. He shall not effect his design, answer'd Don Bellianis, for I will be his hinderance: And so commanded his armour secretly to be brought him. In the mean time Don Contumeliano and the knight of fortune engaged each other so violently, that at the last the prince of Phœnicia came to the ground.

Then Don Arfileo, in great anger, took hold of the biggest lance he could find, and putting himself
C
against

against the knight of fortune, who also came against him with incredible fury, that they both broke their lances in the middle of their shields. And the like they did at their second encounter; but at the third they met with such vehemence, that the prince Arfileo came to the earth over his horse's crupper; and the black knight lost both his stirrups, but saved himself by catching hold of his horse's neck.

At the same time there enter'd the tilt-yard two brave knights arm'd in a kind of white armour, one of which was finely engraved with many imperial crowns, and his presence appear'd admirably grand and awful, who addressing himself to the knight of fortune, said, Sir knight, if you please to honour me so far, as to admit me to take a turn with you. To which he reply'd, with all his heart, and that he was ready; and taking a strong lance from his page, came into the broad field, as did also the knight of the crowns: And the other knight (companion to him of the crowns) was for breaking a lance with one of the knights of the eagles.

The knight of the crowns and knight of fortune spurring their courses, met with such fury, as if two tempestuous currents had encounter'd each other, and pierced each other's shield in the midst; and wounded each other (thro' their coats of mail and armour) in the breasts, and the pieces of their lances seem'd to mount up to the clouds, and then meeting horse to horse, and body to body, made a most terrible fight; insomuch that both their horses fell down dead, and they themselves seem'd in no much better case. Upon which the princess Persiana cry'd out to Don Bellianis, saying, Dear knight, suffer not here, these brave knights to die, but use your endeavours to part them. Whereupon
Do

Don Bellianis buckled on his helmet, and mounting his horse came to the place, and putting himself between them, said, Most renowned knights, these justings were design'd for pleasure, and that each valiant knight might shew his heroick valour; but not to carry things to such extremities, and therefore let me intreat you to desist, since neither of you can arrogate to himself the greatest praise as being the greatest champion, or either of you to be less accounted. At which they began to parley, and yielded to let the combat remain as it was, on this condition, that in thirty days time it should be fully decided between them in the valley of the Three Fountains.



C H A P. IX.

How the knight of the crowns was known to be the Emperor Don Belianes, and his companion to be Sabian of Trebento: And of the Emperor's going to the valley of the Three Fountains, to engage prince Perianes of Persia. And who the sage Friston was, and what he did by his enchantments, and how they were baffled by the sage Bellona.

DON Bellianis then addressing himself to the knight of the crowns, he highly commended his courage and most puissant valour; humbly intreating his stay for the cure of his wounds, and also requested of him his name. My name, reply'd the other, will be to you insignificant, since I never before now came into these parts. and consequently, therefore, I am an utter stranger to you:

But I will so far oblige your curiosity as to unlace my helmet, on condition that you do not insist any farther against my will: Which doing, he was immediately known by Don Bellianis, and those of his company, (viz. Don Arfileo and Duke Al'yron) to be the gallant Don Bellaneo the Emperor, his father; which surpriz'd him with amazing joy, and on his knee beg'd his blessing: And he, with the other, were amaz'd with surprizing wonder, at the strangeness of this adventure. Then with humble duty and submission, requested of him the other knight's name; who answer'd, It is Sabian of Trebento, who came along with me in search of you.

Then said the Emperor to Don Bellianis, you are acquainted with this country, therefore let me know where, and at what distance the valley of the Three Fountains is, for I must go thither. It is, reply'd Don Bellianis, not far hence, and but an easy walk, being about three miles distant.

The prince beg'd the favour to know the reason for his going thither? You must know, answer'd the Emperor, that I have engag'd myself to meet there, to combat with the Persian Prince this day, and I am to meet him without company, for so we agreed; and therefore, for this time, here we must part, and not go together. At which Don Bellianis was much griev'd; not only that the Emperor had undertaken so dangerous an adventure, but that he was not to accompany him.

At this time there was, a certain necromancer, named the sage Friston, whose skill in magick exceeded most of his time; and he was a most perfect friend to prince Periano, and us'd his utmost skill in his favour, and to that end presented him with an excellent rich and well temper'd sword, (almost equal to that of Don Bellianis's, given him
by

by the sage Bellona) and also armour made under the influence of certain constellations, as made it almost impenetrable.

But Fritton finding by his art, that the prince Perianeo, notwithstanding his great valour, would be on a certain time in great danger of losing his life; but not suffer'd by the fates of destiny exactly to know the time, he resolv'd to disturb the fight.

Don Bellianis being parted from his father, returned into the city, not shewing any sign of alteration, or acquainting any with his purpose: And meeting with Sabian of Trebento, borrowed of him his armour, without giving him any reason for what, neither did the other ask any questions.

Then mounting his horse he posted away, and lay perdue near the place; where he spy'd the Emperor lying under a fair spreading beech-tree, on a delectable plain.

Don Bellianis had fix'd himself in a place, thro' which the Persian Prince must of necessity pass: In some short time the prince Perianeo came prancing on a gallant steed, and himself in curious armour of a saguine, or bloody colour, without any device in his shield: And coming to the place where Don Bellianis stay'd, (whom he thought to be the knight of the crowns) and just come; said to him, Sir knight, this is a proper place for the decision of our late combat that we left unfinish'd. Don Bellianis facing about, and seeing him so alter'd in his armour knew him not; but said, I am ready for you, and am come to this place for the purpose you mention, but I am a little surpriz'd that you come in disguise, not having on your usual armour. The Prince drawing nearer to Don Bellianis perceived the picture of the princess Florisbella on his shield, which fired the Persian Prince with such indigna-

tion, that he was not able to keep his passion within the bounds of moderation and reason; for he lov'd the princess Florisbella, even to distraction, and thought that none dare to have pretension (or sign of them) to any person on whom he had placed his affection: Wherefore, in great rage and fury, he wheel'd his horse about to take a full career, the like did Don Bellianis, and the two combatant rivals rush'd against each other, with such an impetuous force and stupendous vigour, that they seem'd like to two castles encountering one another: After the breaking of their lances, which flew into shivers and mounted almost to the clouds, Don Bellianis lost his stirrup; and prince Perianeo had like to have come to the earth, but saved himself by his horse's mane; then they came to closer fight, and made the whole valley eccho with their mighty blows.

Now the sage Friston to interpose by his art, left his favourite Perianeo should miscarry in this adventure: And thereupon, by his magick, (as Don Bellianis, with his most puissant arm uplifted to give the fatal and decision blow) deceiv'd his sight, with the appearance of his dearly beloved, the fair princess Florisbella: Who said to him, What do you here, (renoun'd knight, and parragon of Greece) know you not that your love to me cannot take effect, unless you free me from this approaching danger?

And forthwith he thought he saw four giants, like a whirlwind, snatch her quite away, and dragging her by her lovely locks of hair with barbarous savageness.

This sight dissolved his heart, his unconquer'd heart, to liquid blood: Whereupon the gallant Don Bellianis, not respecting the fight, followed the delusion, which led him down the valley, and immediately

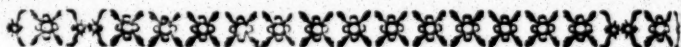
mediately his fine armour, borrowed of Sabian, bedecked with imperial crowns, began to fade and loose its beautiful hue, and to appear more and more like that formerly worn by prince Perianeo, 'till at last it could not be distinguish'd from the same.

Prince Perianeo seeing nought of this, and knowing not the true cause of losing his adversary, was for pursuing him as if he had fled; but on a sudden his reins were snatch'd from his hands; and looking round him with amazement, perceiv'd his friend the sage Friston, who thus preserv'd him, and ended this adventure, in which his life was in so much danger.

Don Bellianis, as aforesaid, followed these delusive giants, whom he thought carried away the princess Florisbella; and in his eager pursuit, he had not gone far in the valley, but (as he thought) he saw a knight arm'd in such armour as the Persian Prince wore, with whom he had lately engaged; but as soon as he drew near him, all the former enchanted phantoms of giants vanished, and he beheld nothing but the said knight remaining; who, indeed, was his father, but by Friston's magick, so chang'd, that he seem'd to Don Bellianis to be the knight of fortune (or prince Perianeo); and Don Bellianis's armour seem'd to the Emperor to be the same: So that under this double mistake, they began to encounter each other, so that there began the cruelest and fiercest fight ever seen in all the world; striking one another such terrible strokes with their swords, that fire issued from their armour like flashes of lightning, that they could hardly see one another: And had it not been for the sage Bellona, their friend, who suddenly appear'd to them like a grave matron, conducted by four giants

carrying a pillar of fire before her, riding on palfrey, and with wonderful haste came upon them before further mischief should be done, and making them to know each other, otherwise the continuance of the battle might have been fatal to them both; but by her art, she destroy'd and baffled that of Frison's, who, by his, sought the destruction.

And Bellona lost no time, but immediately apply'd proper and most sanative remedies to the wounds, and quickly restor'd them to their former health, and pristine vigour.



C H A P. X.

What passed between the Sultan of Babylon and Don Bellianis, and with the princess Florisbella. And of Don Bellianis's succouring Don Brianel and Don Clarineo at the siege of Antioch.

DON Bellianis mounted his horse, in order to depart, as Bellona had order'd him, but seeing the Sultan coming towards him, he thought it unseemly to depart so abruptly, without speaking to so high and mighty a prince as the Sultan, who vouchsaf'd to honour him so far, as to give him a meeting: Whereupon, with wonderful dexterity and nimbleness he alighted, and in the lowest posture of humility and respect, requested to kiss his hand: Whereupon the Sultan so far condescended, as to dismount likewise, tho' much intreated to the contrary by Don Bellianis.

While

While they were thus talking, came the sage Bellona, and with her those matchless and most excellent princesses, the fair Florisbella, and Mattarosa, her cousin; the former of which appear'd so delightfully, and rediantly beautiful, that no humane heart could be proof against such ravishing charms as she wore, but must have melted at the sight of her: So gloriously set forth in the most rich and gallant attire, all over bespangled with gems of astonishing lustre, and orient pearls of invaluable worth; with a coronet of gold glittering and sparkling with diamonds, rubies, and sapheirs: But all these glories were not comparable to the beauties that ravishing shone in her most amiable and adorable countenance. In like manner was attir'd the princess Mattarosa, whose perfection of beauty had no equal in the absence of her peerless cousin.

Then they preparing to depart, Don Bellianis address'd himself to the princess Florisbella, declaring to her with what reluctance, and almost inconsolable anguish of mind he suffered, in that he was indispensably necessitated to leave her; and beseeched her to take a more than ordinary care of the ring, that he gave her, saying, that it cost him not a little pains, and loss of blood to obtain it; and that the keeping it, would secure her from any sinister accident whatsoever.

Then said she to Don Bellianis, I shall take a peculiar care of this invaluable jewel, of which you speak; and ever remember, with all gratitude, the generous donor.

Don Bellianis after this, travelling thro' many forreits and vast deserts, came to a place where he espy'd at some distance several knights, in whose company there was a damsel. When coming up to

them, the damsel, who knew him by his armour, said, How propitious is my fortune, that before I had well nigh begun my journey, it is put an end to, by the lucky meeting of you, most accomplish'd knight; when I expected to have travel'd many long and wearisome miles, before I had found you, but now happy it is that I have so fortunately met with you.

For know, most renown'd knight, said the damsel, that not long since the Sultan and his beautiful daughter, the princess Florisbella, (at the mention of whose name Don Bellianis started with inexpressible concern) were taking an airy walk in the most delectable vallies; at some small distance they both espy'd a chariot, attended with several persons, clad in mournful array, and drawing near, express'd deep sorrow in doleful tones of grief; whereat the Sultan with much concern and tenderness, demanded their just cause of grief? And thereupon, by a grave old man, he was informed, that greater mischief never besel him since his youth, until that time; for, said he, as I was passing thro' the grove, in this my chariot, with my beautiful and virtuous daughter, the only comfort of my decrepid years; when certain knights, or rustians rather, would needs have forced her from me, as I suppose, to have deprived her of her honour; but she resisting, they with barbarous and inhuman rage, used her vilely, so that she fell down as dead, and thereupon they fled. And while we were deploring our sad disaster, a voice was heard from the clouds above, Take up the damsel, and well note, that the touch of any one of her sex, that is more beautiful than herself, will be the only means of restoring her to her former health and strength.

And therefore we are on our way to the Sultan of Babylon's court, there to implore the favour of the princess Florisbella, nature's master-piece, and beauty of the world.

To which reply'd the Emperor, If it be so, you need not travel far, for she is near at hand: With that the princess soon advanced, as thinking all he said was true, was glad of such an opportunity of doing so much good; so with the Emperor, her father, mounted the chariot, in which there seem'd to lye a virgin stretch'd at length, and dead; and on her touch she presently revived, and with many thanks express'd her gratitude for her princely compassion: When at the same time the old man lay lashing his horses, but could not make them stir one foot until the princess was alighted; because they had no power to move by reason of the enchanted ring which the princess then had on: And no sooner was she got down, but the horses flew like lightning, not permitting the Emperor to come down, so that he was convey'd with great rapidity to a place none knows where. And this is the cause, most noble knight, of my seeking you; and hath occasion'd the following letter from the sage Bellona to the Empress, the contents of which is as follows. •

Bellona's Letter to the Empress of Persia.

MOST mighty princess grieve not, for soon the most accomplish'd knight the world affords will arrive, and free the mighty monarch, who is convey'd to an island in the sea, and there kept close prisoner in a strong castle.

From my Cave on Caucasus,

Yours *BELLONA.*

Upon

Upon which declaration of the damsel, Don Bellianis was much concern'd; and after some consideration they both set forward for Babylon, and reached the city that night.

When arrived, he was conducted into the presence of the Empress, and the princesses Florisbella and Mattarosa, and many other noble ladies.

To whom he said, Royal ladies, but in beauty more divine; I can't but express a thousand thanks for the many and exceeding favours that I have received since my arrival in this court. To which the Empress, bowing over her scepter, reply'd, Most valiant and renowned knight, of whose most heroic deeds the world at this time rings: And still we must be further troublesome, in requiring of you to undertake the Emperor's deliverance: To whom he thus reply'd, Madam, you ever bless me with your many favours.

Then turning to Florisbella, thus said, Thou fairest of all human race and nature's master-piece, the wonder of your sex, how did it rejoice me when I heard that you was safe, and that it was your pleasure I should undertake this enterprize. To which, with a blush, she reply'd, Sir, as a stranger, I shall ever own, that you have already done far more than I could expect.

The princess Mattarosa had some time before promised to Don Bellianis, that at a proper opportunity she would use her endeavour, so that he should have a private interview with the princess Florisbella, which she brought to pass that evening. At which time Don Bellianis had an opportunity of acquainting her, in an ample manner, who he was, and that he was son to the Emperor of Greece; and that he wore a shield with her picture upon it, and was known therefore, by the name of the knight of

the golden image. Then he told her of the many adventures, and strange mutations of fortune that he had met withal, and so from point to point he told her all, to her great satisfaction. But above all, he then had an opportunity of declaring to her his inexpressible passion for her, which he so mentioned and worded, and so far wrought upon her, that she accepted him as her humble servant; which so much affected him, that he stood motionless, or as one struck dumb, with excess of joy and transport; but after a little recovery, he thus expresses himself.

Fairest and most dear lady! How can I expatiate on the infinite obligations I lye under, on account of your abundant towards me, and for the favours you are pleased to heap upon me; and therefore, all that I can do in your service, will come extremely far short of a recompence: but I will use my utmost endeavour to oblige you, and will serve you with love as lasting as my life.

Upon which the princess Attarosa joined their hands, and wished them joy for ever: At which instant their hearts were so mutually linked to each other, that laying aside farther ceremonies, they vow'd a lasting love to each other, which was to consummate in a happy marriage, and was to be perform'd at his return from the adventure of delivering the Emperor.

Upon which several knights offered Don Bellianis their service to attend him in the adventure; but he would except of none, but of the prince of Numidia, who was then come to the court about state affairs.

C H A P. XI.

How Don Bellianis and the prince of Numidia, Don Beltazona, set forward on the adventure, in search of the enchanted island, and how they fought with several knights and giants, and rescued a damsel that was detained a prisoner by them; and by her direction they found out the said island, and of the Emperor's deliverance.

DON Bellianis and the prince of Numidia, being gone to their intended enterprize, travelled towards the Caspian Sea; being furnish'd with a ship, they enter'd upon it, and sail'd for three days without seeing any other vessel but their own; but the next day in the morning the mariners discry'd a sail making towards them: Upon which Don Bellianis commanded the pilot to bear up likewise, and coming up close with the ship, they heard great lamentation of a female, that seem'd in very great distress; whereupon, they hail'd the vessel very loudly, and demanded the reason of such dismal outcries? When immediately there appear'd upon the deck two hideous and most monstrous giants, who said it was his best and safest course to steer away, without any more questions, if he would sleep in a whole skin. But Don Bellianis, not a whit daunted at their insulting language, tack'd about, grappled their ship, and leaped on board, and was also follow'd by the prince of Numidia. The giants presently began to handle their huge battle-axes, and immediately there began a most terrible battle; there being also six knights on board, of giantick size; but Don Bellianis laid about him with his enchanted sword, whose force

no armour (tho' never so strong) could possibly resist, that he soon dispatch'd one of the giants; and so sorely wounded the other monster with a mighty blow, that made him staggeringly to run a-head and fall over board into the sea, and so was drowned. In the mean time the prince of Numidia, Beltazano, was not idle; for he had killed three of the six knights, and the other three on their knees beg for quarters, and had it granted them: Then at the command of Don Bellianis, one of them went into the cabin and unbound the captive damsel, and presented her to him, who fell at his feet, and said, Heavens preserve my dear deliverer, the victorious Don Bellianis.

This made him wonder, how she should know him, armed as he was: but she proceeding, told him, she was sent by the sage Bellona, to direct him to the enchanted castle; and was in her way to Babylon, surpriz'd by those monstrous giants: and she furthermore said, that the island was so obscured by dark mists, and sulphurous fogs, and other darkness, that it was impossible to find it without direction: And for the prince of Numidia, I had brought an enchanted sword, but when I was made a prisoner, it was forced from me, and what is become of it I know not.

At the hearing of which, the Numidian prince was much perplexed, fearing that it was quite lost; but by an inquisitive search, they at last found it in the ship.

And now having a fair and favourable wind, they made the best of their way, according to the damsel's directions: and after six days sail, the sun shining very gloriously clear, the the mariners, from the topmast head, discovered (about 20 degrees south latitude) as it were a cloud in the sea, and thinking

it was the island, that they were in quest of, (as indeed it was) they rejoiced greatly, and made towards it; and drawing nearer, they thought they discerned a kind of land floating upon the sea, and were by the counsel assured, that it was the very island they looked for; and that in a castle, about a furlong from the shore, the Emperor was confined; but said, the attempt would be very dangerous, because the sage Prisoner knowing that you would be the only man that would undertake the enterprise in hate to you, and love to prince Periano of Persia, hath placed his surest guards to defend not only the castle, but the shore; by this means thinking, that by keeping the Emperor prisoner, to get into his power the princess Florisbella, and then compel her to marry his beloved Periano.

Don Bellianis hearing this, resolved to push forward, in order to finish the adventure, let the consequence be never so perilous, and so commanded to put the ship on shoar: Which being attempted, tho' waves began to rise and toss in a very extraordinary manner, so that the sailors were much astonished, but more so, when they saw several hidious monsters put their heads above water, spouting the rolling waves like a flood into the ship: Thereupon, they put out their skiffs, in order to tow the vessel on shoar, but the monsters, with their snouts, overset the boat; so that if the men had not been good swimmers, they had certainly been drowned.

Don Bellianis seeing this, went down by the side of the ship, with his enchanted sword in his hand, and the monsters making at him, he so lay'd about him, that he wounded several of them most desperately, upon which they vanish'd, and the sea by degrees grew more calm: Then the mariners clapping

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ping on all their sails, soon got on shore ; but then there arose a great and thick fog, so that they could hardly see one another, but by and by it began to decrease, and soon clear'd, and then they saw plainly the castle with all its glittering spires : Whereupon the princes immediately made towards it, and coming to it, found that it stood upon a firm rock, then walking round it to find a proper place for entrance, but they could find no gate ; but at last found a small door, which entered into a cave by many steps, and Don Bellianis having forced open the door, and still descending, heard the dreadful hissing of serpents, but not being at all daunted, (as thinking it but enchanted delusions) pressed forward still, but was soon assaulted, as he thought, by dragons, basilisks, hyennas, and hydras, who with horrible fury came against him ; but he, with his never failing sword, so well defended himself, and lay'd about him, that in a short time he cut his way through ; when presently he saw a glimmering light, such as if twinkling thro' a gloomy wood, and after he had passed many turnings, he entered a broad and spacious court, in the midst of which was a curious fountain, and by the side of it he saw two monstrous dragons ; who lifting up their hidious heads, and speckled breasts, came at him a-main, but he found them mortal, by the large and deep wounds that he made in the r scaly hides, which was not proof against his incomparable blade ; and continuing to charge home upon them, lay'd them both breathless upon the earth : but he received some wounds from them, and was much annoyed by their poisonous breath : And having put an end to their lives, he saw a large iron gate, which with main force he wrenched open, breaking both locks and bars, and gain'd admittance for
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the Numidian prince; who, entering, was overjoyed to see Don Bellianis safe, and much admired and extolled his matchless valour, and most incomparable and daring courage. But presently at the blowing of a horn that hung on an adamantine gate, issued out two mighty giants of a monstrous and prodigious size, with huge iron clubs upon their shoulders; who grinning after a most horrible manner, demanded of the princes, how they durst be so bold as to enter the castle? but Don Bellianis made them no other return than that which his sword afforded, and by his example, fell on them also the prince of Numidia, Don Beltazano; so that now there began a most fierce and terrible combat with dangerous wounds given on both sides; but the gallant prince, Don Bellianis, at last, with a mighty blow, clave his antagonist's head in sunder, who, falling, made the earth to tremble with his weight; which the Numidian prince perceiving, and exerting his strength, with redoubled force, overthrew the monster that he had to deal with also. Thus being rid of those enemies, they passed on, 'till they came to a spacious garden, wherein was a cave, and on a very bright and shining pillar, there was this inscription, viz.

*The Man, whose matchless might in dreadful arms,
Hath thus far past in spite of all our charms:
If he within this cave, can quench the fire,
Hath gain'd his wish: The enchantment shall expire.*

No sooner had they read these lines, but the cave door flew open, with a frightful crack, and a dreadful noise (as of dying groans) was heard: When behold! within the cave appeared a small twinkling fire, fed with brimstone, towards which the princes made; but at their near approach, they

were

were thrown down, as it were with a whirlwind, and assaulted by airy fantoms, or spirits; and tho' they felt great blows, yet saw they not from whence they came, and their return of strokes were all in vain; for with their swords they nought did cut but fluid air; yet Don Bellianis still pressed on, tho' very slowly, for he forced forward thro' many, tho' invisible impositions; which the prince Baltazano observing, went to the fountain, endeavouring to dip up some water with the helmit, when on a sudden, a dreadful crocadile, of a huge and monstrous size, leap'd forth, and with furious rage assaulted him, and with his sharp teeth and claws gave him several wounds; but he with his drawn sword, defended himself in a dexterous manner, and by a lucky and puissant blow, pierced the monster thro' his scales, on the left side near his heart, from whence there issued blood in great abundance, and in an instant dy'd: Upon which, he then pursued his first purpose of getting water from the fountain, to quench the fire, which having gotten, he forced his way to it, and throwing it in, a dreadful clap of thunder straitway ensued, and thereupon the whole enchantment vanished.

This being finished, they found themselves upon a curious plain; and turning about, they saw the Sultan coming towards them, thereupon, the prince of Numidia, the Sultan being his uncle, made towards him, and with bended knees kissed the Sultan's hands, and gratulated him on his wonderful deliverance; and the Sultan with kind embraces, gave him joyful thanks; but he returned for answer, they were not due to him, but to that worthy knight, pointing to Don Bellianis; for he, 'tis he, that hath wrought your deliverance, thro' great peril of his own life; and likewise, 'tis he that hath prevented

vented my cousin, your daughter, from being brought hither also.

By this time was come up to them Don Bellianis to whom the Emperor, with extacy of joy, thus said, O most worthy knight, what recompence shall I make you for this your hazard, and most brave achievement? Nay, half my empire is too little. For surely I had perished here, but for your matchless prowess; which also did preserve my daughter for whose sake, the bold and cruel enchanter, told me I was higher brought; and but for the hidden virtue of a ring you gave her, she had of necessity borne me company.

To whom Don Bellianis thus reply'd, Doubt not, most royal sir, but that all his cunning and black magick art, shall be baffled, and nought avail, in that momentous point: And therefore now great sir, you may prepare for Babylon, and bless your subjects eyes with the much long'd for sight, of their dread lord and master; for here we have a ship just ready to carry you thither.

And thereupon they went towards the sea, where finding the ship ready, they soon embarked, and took their course for Babylon, where, by a prosperous gale, and with auspicious weather, they safely did arrive.

C H A P. XII.

How the Sultan, Don Bellianis, and the prince of Numidia arrived in Persia, and how they understood of the intention of the emperor of Trebizon, to besiege Babylon. And how in a battle between him and Don Bellianis, the former was defeated and taken prisoner. Of Don Bellianis's return to Babylon, and what happened, with the discourse between the sultan and him.

AFTER four days sailing, arriving near Babylon, they saw a company of armed knights, and Don Bellianis coming up to them, he demanded who they were? to whom they answered, that they were knights adventurers, and that they were going to the rendezvous of the emperor of Trebizon, who was going to besiege Babylon: For that he having requested for the sultan's daughter in marriage, and being refused; he resolved (since intreaties would not do) to gain that by force which he could not by fair words, as thinking it an indignity, and an affront of the highest kind to such a mighty emperor, and to be so disappointed; and only on account that the princess had promised herself in marriage to a knight of adventures.

The hearing this relation, did not a little nettle, Don Bellianis, but he bore it with as much patience as he could, being unwilling to discover who himself or his company were: so returning his informer thanks, he rode up to the sultan, and acquainted him with what he had heard, which did much perplex the sultan: but Don Bellianis exceedingly rejoiced, in that he had thereby a fair opportunity of shewing his valour and zeal, for the sultan's service, (which

(which in all his enterprizes he was pretty well furnished of) he could the easier work upon the sultan to yield his consent to his marriage with the most beautiful, and most adorable daughter the princess Florisbella: and said to the sultan, tho' the emperor of Trebizon had invaded his dominions, yet he doubted not, but to force him back with shame and loss.

To whom the sultan answered, that he had much experience of his magnanimity and confidence to doubt of his success, and that therefore would be wholly govern'd and rul'd by his directions: and rather than the emperor should have his daughter without his consent, he was resolv'd to hazard his whole empire.

Then drawing still nearer the city, they beheld the plains about it fill'd with arm'd men on horse and on foot, belonging to the emperor of Trebizon, who actually had invested the city; but the empress had commanded her generals to muster such a number of forces as the exigency of the present state of affairs required and could be got.

These forces no sooner understood of the sultan's deliverance, and of his arrival, but they gave such loud acclamations and shouts, that all the adjacent hills and vallies reverberating the sound, the earth rang again with the noise. Upon which the empress, the princess Florisbella, and Mattarosa, accompanied with the nobility, came forth to meet the sultan her lord; whom meeting, they embraced each other with such affection and joy, that they wept with its excess, and were for a time not able to speak. No less was the princess Florisbella affected for her father's deliverance.

Then Don Bellianis addressing himself to the princess with the greatest humility, comforted her with

with the kindest words and softest expressions of tenderness imaginable.

After this general and kind greeting, they came to the Sultan's palace, where they consulted what was proper to be done for the defence of the empire: for by this time the emperor of Trebizond with a most mighty army was in his march from the frontiers.

In short the issue of the consult was, that Don Bellianis should be general of all the forces, and the prince of Numidia lieutenant general.

But before Don Bellianis went to encounter the enemy, he was introduced by the princess Mattarosa to a private audience of the princess Florisbella, and upon his entrance, with much obsequious behaviour he kissed her fair hand, and after reciprocal salutations they each of them sat down, and began to talk on a subject very pleasing to them both, viz. that of love. Don Bellianis highly enlarg'd upon the ardency of his passion for her, and she, with a seeming modest indifferency was for waving the discourse, and to talk of other matters, tho' nothing could please her more than to hear a person whom she valued above all others in the world, express himself in such manner, and with so much ardour of love and real affection towards her: but she was very desirous to hear the particulars of the last adventure of restoring her father: to which at first the gallant hero seemed somewhat reluctant, but she pressing it by the ties of love, &c. prevail'd so far that he could deny her nothing, delighting to relate whatever she was pleas'd to hear; and the obeying her commands was to him perfect felicity; and thereupon he began to inform her the particulars: first, how he fought with the giants and knights at sea, and delivered Bellona's damsel,

damfel, by whose direction he found the enchanted island: then with his fighting with and killing the monsters of the sea; and with serpents, dragons, and giants of the enchanted cattle, and every danger that occurred, till his arrival at the city, at the same time highly extolling the prince of Numidia for his virtue, valour, and prudent conduct.

When the prince heard of the many dangers he had gone thro' for her sake, she could not refrain from tears, which he perceiving, with great concern and tenderness told her, that all he had done and suffer'd for was not worth a tear from so divine a creature: Truly, replied she, the uncommon respect, and something else, that I bear to you, excites me to it, and am thus affected concerning you; for since you are safe, I shall banish all sorrow from my breast, and with intire satisfaction do congratulate your deliverance from such imminent danger.

When Don Bellianis highly commended her constancy to him, in refusing the offers of the emperor of Trebizon, she answered, that of all men living I should never have comply'd with that emperor's request.

But should any other prince or potentate endued with all the perfections both of body and mind, make addressees to me of that kind, my constancy to you would still remain inviolable, and ever shall do so, to the last moment of my life: and nothing but force, and that great force too, can bereave you of my person, but not of my affections.

Don Bellianis hearing this, was transported beyond measure, crying out, O ye immortal powers! can such virtue and constant resolution remain in such another breast? O how shall the service of my whole life merit so great a good? 'Tis you, madam,
that

that makes me bold and daring, and sharpens the edge of my sword for execution, and will give strength to my fainting arm.

In these rapturous expressions the hero had continued longer, but he was interrupted by the coming of the princess Mattarosa, who desir'd him to desist, saying, that such extasies were now needless, since they were both fully assured of each others most affectionate constancy, and therefore admonished him to betake himself to his lodging, and after rest to consider of the great undertaking he was going about, in relation to the battle with his mighty rival, the emperor Trebizon.

The next morning, when Aurora with her glorious rays had gilded the whole hemisphere, the gallant Don Bellianis, pursuant to what Mattarosa advis'd, began to lay aside (for the present) his thoughts of love, and to employ them on the subject of war.

Accordingly he began to collect his troops, and range his army for battle.

Hereupon the sultan's army marched with flying colours, first setting out with an army of 50 or 60 thousand men, but in their march more troops joined them, so that they were encreased to double their number that they were at first: so that now Don Bellianis was encouraged, and thought himself not inferior to the enemy, who came to meet with an army of 200 thousand men; among whom were also many fierce and terrible giants: but this not in the least daunted the gallant prince, who was very eager to give the emperor battle, that he might thereby enjoy the delightful company of the charming Florisbella.

No less desirous was the emperor of Trebizon to engage the prince, thinking to overpower him by

numbers. The next morning both armies came within sight of each other, extending their dreadful fronts six miles in length.

Don Bellianis was for engaging that day, but a terrible and sudden tempest of wind and rain arose, that they were obliged to pitch their tents, and desist for that day.

But the next morning Don Bellianis call'd to him one of his knights, and sent him to the emperor to bid him battle, which was by the latter readily accepted, but said it was very indiscreet, as well as bold, for the knight of the Golden Image to invade him with such a handful of men; but as he had undertaken it so rashly, he might have time enough to repent it, for he was resolved to chastise his foolish temerity, and make him retire with more haste out, than he came into his country.

This haughty return hastened Don Bellianis, so that immediately he order'd the refreshment of his army; after which he began to range it in battle array.

And the trumpets sounding to the charge, both fronts advanc'd jointly; the two wings of horse appeared in crescent form, and thus they remained, waiting only for the signal to begin.

Don Bellianis was in the front with a squadron of 40 thousand; on each hand of him stood the knight of the Flaming Sword and of the Hope, with each of them 20 thousand under their command; and in the rear stood as a reserve the prince of Numidia with 20 thousand more, with orders not to move till he was sent for, or that necessity required his assistance.

The emperor also had marshal'd his army, and ranged it in very good order, dividing it into four battalions of 50 thousand each: The first of which

was led by himself, and the three other, by three fierce giants, his kinsmen.

All things being now ready, Don Bellianis commanded the trumpets to blow the bloody blast to the charge : whereupon the two puissant armies advanc'd against each other.

Don Bellianis resolving to animate and encourage his soldiers by his own example, he took a strong lance, and push'd forward against the emperor, who advanc'd against him with the like resolution, so that both their horses fell to the ground ; but soon recovering themselves, they drew their glittering swords, and encountered each other with such fury, that sparks of fire flew thick from their helmets and well-temper'd blades, each giving and receiving many wounds : till at last the emperor began to faint, upon which one of the giants, with a huge battle-ax, came to his assistance, and fell on Don Bellianis unawares, and hit him a most cruel blow on his helmet, that almost bereav'd him of sense, and had most certainly slain him, had not some knights came to his deliverance, but coming to himself, and finding what the giant had cowardly done, he with furious desire of revenge broke thro' the hostile ranks, and said, come monster, let us fight face to face, and thereupon with redoubled force smote him upon his helmet, cutting it quite thro', and cleav'd him to the chin. The emperor fighting near at hand, and knowing what was done, came again upon Don Bellianis, whom he found slaughtering his men like sheep ; none daring to stand before him ; wherefore the emperor thrust himself against him, so that there began again a most bloody combat between them, whose revenge and jealousy had whetted their courage as sharp as death, till at last the emperor fell down wounded

from his horse, and had there certainly been slain, if a great number of his knights had not (with the loss of many of their lives) interpos'd to prevent it, and got him carried off. Now wherever Don Bellianis ranged, death pav'd his way with the slain; whilst all the plains blush'd with bloody slaughter, and the air fill'd with the confus'd noise of shouting victors, and the groans of dying men.

Then came the knights of the Hope and Flaming Sword, so that the fight increased in all parts. The emperor by this time having his wound bound up, came again with great fury to the battle, and with ten thousand fresh knights broke thro', in so much that that part of the Persian army, where the knight of the Hope was, began to give way, which the knight of the Hope perceiving, oppos'd himself against the emperor, who was all belmeared with the blood of the slain; so that there began a most fierce combat, the knight of the Hope behaving himself like a gallant hero; for do what the emperor could, he did not make him give ground; till by an unfortunate blow his horse was killed; whereupon many brave knights came to his aid, and remounted him on another horse; then the combat would have been renewed, but news being brought, that the knight of the Flaming Sword had put one of his squadrons to the rout, which drew the emperor to that quarter, either to stop, or by his valour to shame his flying troops: but he met with such resistance there, that he could not restore the battle; so that tho' he did as much as man could do to hinder them from their retreat, yet his labour was in vain; for the knight of the Flaming Sword having killed three of his giants, began to attack himself, and his men began to shrink on all sides: for Don Bellianis thought it

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not fit further to pursue them, but encamped all that night on the field of battle

In this battle the Numyidian prince with his squadron, stood entire not fighting at all, there being no occasion for his help.

In this battle the emperor lost about 50 thousand of his best troops, being all veterans: but Don Bellianis not above 15 or 16 thousand men.

The next morning the emperor collecting his scattered forces, and a supply of fresh troops coming, was resolv'd to try his fortune again, upon which Don Bellianis having notice was very joyful, hoping to take the emperor prisoner, and thereby put an end to the war.

Upon which he drew forth all his forces, himself marching in the front, and after him the prince of Numidia, with the forces under his command, which fought not the day before, whom the emperor thought to have surprized, but he was upon his guard and ready to meet him.

They no sooner came within an arrows flight, but the trumpets sounded to the charge; and the emperor of Trebizon came attended with his monstrous giants, the stoutest in all his empire, who shunning the fierce charges of Don Bellianis, broke in another quarter of the army, where Don Baltazano, the prince of Numidia commanded, and there with their fearful battle-axes made a most dreadful slaughter, forcing through the battalions, killed all that opposed them; which sad sight greatly concerned the prince of Numidia, so that to stop the deluge of destruction, he in person opposed, and with his enchanted sword in his hand, which no armour could resist, he smote upon the foremost giant, and at the first blow cut off his right arm, so that he fell to the earth, and there was trampled to
D 3 death;

death, and then he push'd at a second, whom almost killed: which the emperor seeing, came on with redoubled fury, but was so bravely repulsed, that he was forced to give back; while Don Bellianis, with undaunted valour laid heaps upon heaps with his tremendous sword; for neither knight or giant were able to withstand him.

The knights of the Hope and Flaming Sword in their quarters perform'd wonders, confounding and amazing all that stood in opposition, and forced them to retire with confusion and precipitation, which the emperor perceiving, and finding that all his efforts were in vain at that time against the invincible Don Bellianis, he was for making as handsome a retreat as he could; but yet they were so closely followed that many were slain by the way, particularly at a bridge which they were obliged to pass over; they with precipitation pushed one another into the river, so that there were almost as many drowned, as were slain in battle; but when those that escaped the peril of the river, had gained the other side, they cut down the bridge to hinder the pursuit.

Don Bellianis finding that by demolishing the bridge, he could pursue the enemy no further, he rested contented with his present victory.

The emperor Trebizon being out of the reach of his pursuers, and finding his loss almost irreparable, was so enrag'd, that he began to curse his fates, and also the day of his birth, accusing his stars of their malevolent influence; and was almost reduc'd to frenzy: but his nobles with inimitable courage sustain'd his drooping spirits, by declaring their resolution to stand by him with their lives and fortunes: upon which he recovered himself, and commanded his sinking troops to be rallied, and the

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umpets to sound to a third charge, being assisted by his allies, the kings of Albania and Georgia, and the emperor of Russia; being now resolved to win or lose all in the next pitched battle; whereupon he ordered refreshment for his soldiers, and ordered that his allies afore-named should be invited to a magnificent entertainment, at which was consulted what was proper to be done, they bringing with them 250 thousand horse and foot to his aid, and thereupon it was resolved to venture upon them with this their last effort of recovering again all lost honour and disadvantages before sustained.

Don Bellianis understanding this, intended to meet them notwithstanding the superiority of their number; and if possible to hinder their conjunction, which was done so successfully, that Don Bellianis and the prince of Numidia engaged the new army before the emperor could arrive to join them.

The battle was very bloody and doubtful; the emperor finding this disappointment, turned aside to plunder Don Bellianis's camp; but Don Bellianis leaving the prince of Numidia to manage the battle, went to encounter the emperor, whose death or captivity he hop'd would put an end to the war.

At his coming to his camp, he found the emperor with 50 thousand men storming it in a most outrageous manner; tho' he met with a most gallant resistance, but Don Bellianis, with ten thousand men drawn from the gross of his army, fell upon the emperor's rear, and put them in great confusion; and thereupon Don Bellianis's soldiers of the camp, (who were upon flying) fac'd about and afresh charg'd their pursuers; and the knight of the Flaming Sword charg'd in the van so bravely, that many of the trenches were filled with the blood of their enemies; which so enrag'd the emperor that he

laid about him like a madman, killing and wounding all that came within the reach of his sword, till he came to the side where Don Bellianis was, who presently knew the emperor by his black armour, and greatly rejoic'd that he had met his rival, and opposing one another, there began a most dreadful combat between them, many wounds pass'd, and every blow threatened death: great was the noise and confusion round about them, for now both armies were engaged: the kings of Albania and Georgia commanded each of them a wing of army, and dreadful was the sight to behold, each side thirsting after glory and victory: At last the emperor by a wound received in his arm was much disabled, which obliged his life-guards to rush to his rescue, which they did, but with the loss of many of their lives.

The prince of Numidia at this time was forced to bestir himself, being beset, and hardly prest by a band of giants; but Don Bellianis having obliged the emperor to give ground, come to the assistance of prince Baltazaro, whom he found hard put to it, but coming timely to his aid, he took fresh courage, and he and Don Bellianis charg'd with such fury, the scale of the battle turn'd in their favour.

Greatly was the emperor enrag'd at his hard fortune, but yet was resolv'd to win or lose all; and therefore commanded that his whole army should be divided into three parts, and renew the battle again, being also encouraged by a reinforcement of 20 thousand fresh men that had never yet struck a stroke.

Then there was again seen the glorious, though dreadful sight, of groves of spears, and glittering shields and helmets. When both armies were rang'd
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in dreadful length and most astonish'd depth; and soon the charge began with mighty shouts of men, and dreadful noise of drums and trumpets, that earth and air did seem to quake and tremble: and soon the verdant plain was spread with the sad sight of dying men and dead bodies; a purple gore, in torrents, rolled down each descent.

The Emperor knowing, that his honour, love and empire, now lay all at stake, with desperate rage and fury, therefore, charged with all his might.

And on the other hand, the gallant, the bravest and fierce Don Bellianis, with eager fury and with matchless valour, remembering also, that the whole world to him depended on the issue of this tremendous fight: His dearest Florisbella was the noble prize for which he fought, and the whole globe compared to her, with him was nought.

In this battle, the Emperor and Don Bellianis often encountered one another, giving and receiving many wounds, but were as often parted by many that rush'd in between them.

The fight continued with great obstinacy, and bloody slaughter; and likewise doubtful for the space of seven hours, it remaining uncertain to whom the victory would belong, by reason of the vast disproportion of numbers, which the Emperor had on his side. When on a sudden, the noise of drums and trumpets, with great shouting, was heard at a distance; which made many guess, that they were auxiliary forces, but to whose aid they came, was yet uncertain, because both sides expected supplies of fresh forces; but in a short time the doubt in cleared up, to the great mortification of the Emperor; who, by their colours, knew them to be his enemies, as indeed they were. For these forces

were sent under the command of Don Clarineo and Don Lucidamore, brothers to Don Bellianis, who now came in a good time to turn the scale of the war: for immediately ranging themselves, under the Sultan's standard, they charged the enemies left wing, (which was too powerful for Don Baltazano, and prest him hard) with such fury, that they bore all down before them; so that great numbers were trod to death, and like fierce lyons, more than like men, ragingly slew all within their way. The king of Georgia they took prisoner, and killed the knight of Fame, and wounded even the Emperor himself; who with his great fatigue now began to faint, and had then been there slain, but that his giants kept about him as a guard to his person, and mightily stir'd themselves for his security: but some of them left their monstrous carcases to fertilize the plain.

The Emperor now perceiv'd too apparently, that the day to him was lost; and unable to make a fair retreat, he grew desperate, and resolv'd to break thro' a squadron of horse that had encompassed him; which he attempting to do, most of his chiefs were slain, and his soldiers thereby much discouraged, sunk from him; so that he was taken prisoner, by Don Bellianis, fighting in the midst of thickest troops with desperate rage, and making most incredible slaughter: but upon the rumour of his being taken prisoner, the army dispersed themselves over all the plain, and many of them flung down their arms and begg'd for quarters; and others made their escape, as well and as fast as they could, and night coming on hinder'd any farther pursuit. Don Bellianis then return'd with his prisoners, a victorious army, to his camp; and then summoning all his chiefs to come to his tent, among which came the six knights that brought the last force

and putting off their helmets discover'd who they were, to the great joy of all that were there present. The royal prisoners were committed to the knight of the flaming sword, to be by him kept under a strong guard, 'till they could be carried to Babylon. And it now being hop'd, that the war would be put to a speedy end, Don Clarineo produced a letter from the Sultan to Don Bellianis; and also another from the princess Florissella, which was not a little pleasing to the brave Bellianis; but especially when he read the superscription of that from the Sultan to him, in these words,

To the most accomplished prince, and most renowned knight, Don Bellianis of Greece.

By which he understood, that the Sultan was acquainted with his birth, education and character; the contents of which letter ran as follows.

The Sultan to Don Bellianis.

Renowned Prince,

NO wonder that I have not treated you according to your quality, since I have so long been ignorant of your birth, wherefore my ignorance must plead my excuse: also, none could imagine, that such virtue and valour could reside in the breast of any person, but of noble extraction. And now I could wish that the war was at an end, that I might enjoy your presence at our court; that there I might testify, the great esteem that I have for you. Our daughter seems much inclined to affect you, and if you shall both think it convenient, to join in the sacred bands of wedlock, you have my full consent; and I shall not be a little proud, of so noble an alliance, as that of Greece.

I have

I have sent you such forces, under the conduct of your brothers, as at present could be raised; and in a short time will send you more, and sufficient supplies, as will enable you to put an end to the war, that your wish'd for return may be the speedier: and now wishing that good success may crown your arms, I wish you a hearty farewell, and remain your friend, the Sultan.

From our palace at Babylon, &c.

After having read the above-mentioned, opened the letter from the prince's, and read as follows.

To prince Don Bellianis.

Most noble sir,

IT was no small satisfaction that I received in reading your letter to me; but I should be better pleased, if this tedious war was over, that I might receive the pleasure, and enjoy the happiness of your good company, which is the only thing at present that I most wish. My father is much inclined to consent to our making each other happy; having well understood your noble birth, and most heroic adventures. As for the death of your rival, which I would wish the sooner, to put an end to these troubles; but I would not have you seek his life, at the hazard of your own: For now sir, you must remember, that you are mine, and not altogether at your own disposal; for the wounds you receive, and the hazards you run, equally affect me; and therefore, as you tender my love and quiet, be cautious and careful of yourself, since my life is bound up in yours; and desire you to put an end to my fear, by letting me see you as speedy as possible; which is heartily, and most passionately wish'd for, by your constant

Floribella.

These

These lines so sensibly affected our hero, that he resolved to leave the management of the war to the prince of Numidia, and go forthwith to Babylon, with his prisoners, as not imagining that the war could last long, since the Emperor was made a prisoner. He thereupon called together his chief commanders, and acquainted them with his intent, which they all very much approved of; so that resigning the whole commission to Don Baltazano, in his absence; he only taking with him a guard of ten thousand men, and with his prisoners set forwards to Babylon.

Don Bellianis being now on his journey to Babylon, with his prisoners, he sent his two brothers aforesaid before him, to inform the Sultan of his success, which greatly pleased him: and what did much more rejoice him, was, that the Emperor of Trebizon was taken prisoner; by which means he doubted not, but that the period of the war was finish'd; and thereupon prepared, with great magnificence, to meet the conqueror. When in the mean time, the princess Florisbella advised the princess Mattarosa, to procure the Empress to walk in the garden, and there to find some means of breaking to her the love that Don Bellianis bore to her, and of her reciprocal return to him, of the same kind, and that she herself would be near at hand, and step in to confirm the matter. Accordingly the princess Mattarosa promised so to do, and was as good as her word: for towards the evening she went to the Empress, and requested her majesty to take a turn or two with her in the garden, for that she had a matter of great importance to inform her of, upon which the Empress consented: And when they were in the garden, she began to talk of the war, relating to its effect, and event; and withal urged,

urged, that if the princess was not married, her excellent beauty would attract many more princes, to make their court to her; and in case of refusal, it might give them occasion also to quarrel, and likewise to take up arms against the Empire: Wherefore, said she, if it might consist with your majesty's approbation, and that I may be permitted to advise, is, that your majesty may persuade the princess to make choice of such a one, as for virtue and valour, as also of noble extraction, that may merit so rare a beauty as my fair cousin: likewise, as he must be polite, so also must he be potent, to defend the empire against any invasion.

To which the Empress reply'd: It hath been my desire long since, that it should be as you propose; and with that such a one may be found, both to her satisfaction and our interest. Ah! madam, said Mattarosa, I can soon name the person, that hath all the above-said qualifications in the highest degree. Then pray name him, said the Empress; I shall urge no more, then tell you his name is Don Bellanis, and the eldest son to the Emperor of Greece. Upon which discourse the princess Florisbella entered to them, and the Empress declar'd to her what had been talked of, between her and her cousin Mattarosa, and the princess seemed highly pleased, and to applaud the advice of the princess Mattarosa; and with humble submission frankly told the Empress, that she had long since pitched upon the man whom she thought deserved her best affections; considering, that he much deserved them in that he answered all the several characters and noble qualifications, upon which Mattarosa, her cousin, had been speaking. Then the Empress said, My dear daughter, name the man. But Florisbella, at that demand blushed, and was in
some

some confusion: which Mattarofia perceiving, fairly told the Empress, concerning the love Don Bellianis bore to her cousin Florisbella, and also of hers to him. At which the Empress wondered, that a matter of such consequence should be so closely carried, as not to come to her knowledge; but at the same time promised, to use her utmost endeavours with the Sultan to gain his consent; and at the return of Don Bellianis, that a happy marriage should be concluded.

At which time they broke of discourse for the present, and left the garden; the Empress to the Sultan, and the princesses to their several apartments.

Don Bellianis, before his arrival at Babylon, had sent two letters, the one to the Sultan, and the other to the princess Florisbella. The contents of each were as follows:

Don Bellianis to the Sultan of Babylon.

Dread sir,

WE having continued the war with various success, for some time, by reason of the fresh supplies which daily came to the emperor: at last we resolv'd to hazard all upon the fortune of a battle, on which resolution we drew our armies into the field, with full purpose as aforesaid. Upon which the bloody battle began with wonderful courage on both sides, each hoping for the best, and resolv'd strenuously to oppose the worst: but at last our good fortune turned the scale of the saying, ^{our favours,} (tho' for a long time victory seem'd small services th^{na} both) upon the arrival of my brethren services of his l^{so} that great hath been the slaughter
 " commanders as of common soldier.

In

In the fight the king of Georgia was taken prisoner with my brothers, and the emperor of Trebizon by myself, with which prisoners we are on our way to Babylon, and I have left the army under the command of the prince of Numidia, during my absence: The more immediate particulars, I shall wait upon you in person to inform you of,

In the interim I remain,

Dread sir,

You most obedient servant,

Don Bellianus

The contents of the letter to the Princess runs thus.

Fair, and most exquisite lady,

I*N whose favour lies all my earthly happiness: Tedi-
ous, very tedious, hath been the time that I have been ab-
sent from you; each day a month, and each month a
year to me hath seem'd: But in war there is no certain
time, in human foresight, for its issue, or event, or
period. Yet in your name, and by your influence, to-
gether with the justness of our cause, I at last became
victorious; and have taken the haughty and aspiring
emperor prisoner, as also his potent ally, the king of
Georgia, who came with fifty thousand armed men to
his assistance; with whom we are on our way to Ba-
bylon, having left the prince of Numidia, her
principal part of the army, to command Empress
and to pursue and finish the advance man. But
over the enemy: Hoping, therefore, and was in
some*

down, to have the happiness of kissing your fair hands ;
and then to present my captive rival before you ; 'till
when, and for everafter, I shall remain

Your humble

And most obedient servant,

Don Bellianis.



C H A P. XIII.

*Of Don Bellianis's arrival at Babylon, and of the
discourse between him and the Sultan.*

THE Sultan being inform'd of Don Bellianis's coming, by the letter aforesaid, he and his nobles, in most splendid equipages, march'd out of the city to meet him ; and they had not gone far, before they heard the glorious noise of drums and trumpets, and other instruments of war : And understanding that it preceded the glorious Bellianis's approach, the Sultan commanded six of the nobles to ride before him, and to inform him that his friend the Sultan was advancing forward to meet him. The courtiers upon the sight of the brave victor, did as they were commanded ; and thereupon the gallant Bellianis, in a most courteous and obliging manner, highly acknowledged the great honours done to him by so mighty a monarch : Saying, That he did him too much honour, for the small services that he had done ; and that if all the services of his life, could recompence so great a fa-

a favour and goodness, it should be freely and most readily done.

Then advancing to the head of his army, he rode between his two brothers, and the rest of the knights followed in the rear: And within a mile from the place where the nobles met him, he saw the Sultan, with his noble retinue in great splendor, advancing towards him; and coming within a bow-shot of the Sultan he dismounted, and giving his horse and lance to his squire, went towards the Sultan, who perceiving him coming forwards, alighted also, and at their meeting would not suffer him to kneel, but took him up in his arms, and embracing him, said, Most invincible and victorious knight, what tender of thanks shall I return you, for the many and singular services that you have done for my interest; and in particular, for delivering me from the power of the enchantment; and also, my daughter from the malice of Friskin the necromancer: And therefore, you may justly be term'd our preserver and deliverer, and I may rightly call you the shield of our empire; and therefore, ask to the half of it, and you shall be possessed of your desire.

Don Bellianis hearing the Sultan express himself in such favourable and condescending terms, could not refrain from blushing: Replying, Most mighty Sultan! my performances are but poor, if compared to the great valour you are pleas'd to set upon them, and cannot possibly merit so high an esteem; but since you vouchsafe to heap such commendations on me, I must esteem it to your goodness, more than to my desert: And therefore, I am bound by future conduct in your service, to demonstrate how much I account of your great favours: And the champion of your fair daughter the princess, I shall think myself bound, to exert my utmost abilities, to yours, and

and her services; and shall ascribe all my success, in either, to your goodness and her virtue, more than to the power of my arms: And 'tis to the highest part of my ambition, to continue in both your favours.

Upon which the Sultan, interrupting him, said, Great prince, we are both so much obliged to you, that there is no room left for your farther contending, concerning obligations. To which Don Bellianis reply'd, Great sir, if I may, with your approbation, gain but the princess, your fair daughter, in marriage, I ask no more for all my toils in war.

Then said the Sultan, in your person, virtue and valour seem to be rivals, but neither is superior; and tho' my daughter be not worthy of so brave a knight and noble prince, yet if you will please so far to condescend, as to except of my daughter for your consort, I shall be proud of so noble a son: And tho' your love to her be so sincere, you will in that particular be no loser, because hers to you is as ardent.

Don Bellianis hearing the expressions of favour, bowed himself to the ground, and seemed unable to express his joy for so great a happiness; but assuming a manly courage, reply'd, Most mighty sir, you bless me by these expressions of condescension, beyond what my gratitude is able to utter. Shall then the princess be the reward, the inestimable reward, (as so I account it) of my small labour? I cannot but bless my stars, and praise my most propitious fortune, on so happy an occasion; and thereupon bowed himself to the earth: Upon which the Sultan lifted him up again, and embraced him, desiring him not to insist any longer in such expressions, since he highly and heartily was welcome, to what was offered him.

Then

Then faced about the whole company, and entered into the city, where they were met by the magistrates in their scarlet robes and formalities, and saluted him with all possible demonstrations of joy; the bells ringing, and bonfires blazing in pyramids of cedar-wood; as also, conduits running with wine: Where also they were met by the Empress, and the two princesses, Florisbella and Mattarosa, and a great train of noble ladies, in most sumptuous attire, who congratulated them for their success in war, and their happy arrival to the city.

Don Bellianis's mind and eyes were wholly fix'd on the lovely Florisbella, who was adorned with many glittering jewels of most glorious lustre, and appeared like an orb bespangled with glittering stars, which so entranced him, that he seem'd to be motionless: And she was no less transported at his gallant mien, so that there was a reciprocal harmony of admiration and joy; and bowing low, in mighty raptures, kissed her lovely hand, which she most willingly accepted. And then they moved towards the palace, where there was prepared for them a great and most glorious entertainment, of most costly and delicate rarities, for their refreshment.

Thither the royal prisoners were also brought, and placed in a tower under proper guards, for their detainment.

When the Sultan and Empress, the Princesses, and Don Bellianis, and the rest of the nobility were at dinner, wine went chearfully round in noble healths.

And then the Sultan declared before all his nobles, that he intended to make the princely Don Bellianis his son-in-law, to which all unanimously

mouſſy gave applauſe ; which pleaſed the bright hero, and his lovely ſpouſe, beyond all expreſſion. There nothing now remained but the ſolemnization of the glorious nuptials.



C H A P. XIV.

Of the marriage of Don Bellianis to the Princeſs Floriſbella.

WHereupon, the Sultan appointed the day for its celebration, being the 14th day following : And in the mean time he ſent his purſevants to all parts of the empire, to give notice and ſummon the nobles, and great men thereof, to give their attendance at the great ſolemnity.

The day being come, on which this glorious wedding was to be ſolemnized, great was the appearance of nobles and ladies of the greateſt quality and diſtinction, inſomuch, that the city could not contain them ; ſo that many glorious tent and pavilion were pitch'd on the verdant plains for their reception, and lodgings taken up in all the neighbouring towns. This noble concourſe mightily pleaſed the Sultan and the Empreſs, in that the ſame and great renown of the prince of Greece, had occaſioned this great aſſembly.

In the morning, when glorious Phebus, with his bright rays, had gilded the earth, and drank up all the pearly drops of dew that hung on fragrant flowers; then came forth the bridegroom and his most glorious bride, attended with a noble and glittering train of bright and shining followers.

First went the Sultan leading his Empress, next the king of Shyraza leading his queen; then followed the king of Antioch and his queen: After whom, came the gallant bridegroom, led by the princesses Mattarosa and Cynthia: Then came the glorious bride, supported by the two renowned brothers, Don Clarineo and Don Lucidamore. And to describe the succeeding train that followed: The fine shews and curious pageants, with charming musick, both vocal and instrumental, is almost out of reach of thought.

In this most splendid manner they did advance to Hymens palace, the temple; at the gate of which they were met by the priests in their white robes, with golden censers in their hands, which did perfume the air with their Arabian gums, sweet smelling myrrh, and frankincense, which was carried before them to the altar; about which were also burning one hundred flaming tapers, and imprinted on them the arms of Greece and Babylon. Then the arch-priest sang this.

Epithalium.

COME blessed pair, whose mutual love,
Does make you to this altar move;
To join your hands, and hearts in age,
Then royal lovers come away.
The heavenly powers do now decree,
That in your loves you'll happy be.

Chorus { The heavenly powers do now decree,
That in your loves you'll happy be.

Then coming to the altar, the bride and bridegroom kneeled on cushions embroidered with gold; when the arch-priest joined their hands, and gave them benediction, and so the ceremony ended: and then arising, Don Bellianis saluted his beautiful bride, which 'till then he had not perfumed to do, unless it were her hand. Upon which the trumpets gave a joyful flourish, and the people a loud shout, crying out, long live the Sultan and Sultaneſs, and the prince and hero; Don Beilianis of Greece, and his most illustrious consort the beautiful princeſs Floriſbella.

When all was over the bright train returned to the palace, where was prepared an entertainment of all the choicest provisions that earth and sea could afford; with musick that would have charmed the spheres.

After dinner, the afternoon was spent in dancing, 'till the evening, against which time was prepared several fine *malques*: after which, the Sultan commanded

manded silence, and order'd to be proclaim'd by his herald of arms, that it was his pleasure, that there should be four days spent in tilts and tournaments, and other martial divertizements.

And now the happy moment came, when as our gallant prince was to lay aside the arms of war, and to enter into those of a softer kind, viz. those of love; and to combat in the field of Venus, where he was positively sure to meet with no rough usage.

*But one who'd clasp him in her longing arms,
And in that circle all his spirits charms:*

*And here I draw a veil,
For words are blest, enjoyment ne'er can tell,
Love still charms most, when't does in darkness dwell.*

The morning returning, the lovers arose, when in the fair bride's face it might be seen, that she had given earnest of her love, and the brave hero appeared all gay, as he no less could be, after the fruition of such transporting joy.

Now, began the great magnificent preparations for the tournament; and after all things ready, the trumpets sounded, to collect all gallant knights to their several posts, in order to begin the glorious entertainment.

The sultan and sultaneß first went to the parade, then followed the prince and his dear consort, and after them many princes of most noble blood: all of them being placed in a station suitable to their quality, under cloths of state, richly bedeck'd with Tissue work of gold, and high scaffolds that overlook'd the fields: the martial of the lists caused a herald to proclaim aloud, that it was the sultan's pleasure,

pleasure, that Contameliano, prince of Phenicia, should with 50 knights, have the honour to maintain the field for that day against all comers, and that all strangers had free liberty to try their fortune and valour.

The proclamation ended, the prince with his knights well and gallantly accoutred, entered the lists : and after low obedience made to the sultan, &c. he then advanc'd, and against him came the knight of the Bear, who ran furiously to meet him in the charge, and the latter in the encounter lost his stirrup, and had much ado to save himself from falling, but after recovery, he renewed the charge, but then his fortune had a worse turn, for then he was quite overthrown and level'd on the earth : then 'twas agreed that twenty of their knights should run at once to try their fortune, which was done accordingly, wherein the prince of Phenicia was again superior in force, and twelve of the knights belonging to the knight of the Bear, were all unhorsed, and but six of his ; this much enraged the knight of the Bear, in presence of his king and queen, so that he desired that all his knights might engage at once against an equal number, and if it was not fairly decided by the lance, it should be by the sword, which was concluded on, and then advancing with more fury than before, they met with almost equal terms ; breaking their lances in a tremendous manner, so that it could hardly be determined who was the better : However, they advanced against one another again, and facing about they drew their swords, whose edges were blunted to prevent their killing each other ; and so turning of jest into earnest, with which they so bravely defended themselves,

that it was delightful to behold, they continuing so skirmishing for the space of three hours; when at last Don Contumeliano so exerted himself, that he beat his adversary from off his horse, and being bruised by the fall, he could not sit after, and likewise his knights had much the better of those that opposed them, so that he was adjudged conqueror, and so ended the divertizement.

The next day Don Clarineo was appointed to defend the ist against the knight of the Eagle, who had 50 knights belonging to him as opposers; and couching their lances they ran against each other, and the knight of the Eagle was put to the foil, as were also his associates.

And the third day was maintain'd by the valiant Peter, knight of the Keys; who entered the lists with his knights, and there came against him a knight in black armour, having a shield with the figure of envy painted on it, which so proved, for having a sharp spear contrary to the laws of justings as likewise all his knights; he ran against the knight of the Keys with such strength, that coping with him, he ran him thro' the left arm, and so passing on with his knights they drew their swords, and began to lay about them most furiously, killing many, by reason the others were not provided with such weapons as their adversaries, which Don Belianis perceiving, and that the confusion of the field grew very great, he would have entered the list himself; to assist his friends, tho' unarmed, but he was restrained by the prince's his spouse; whereupon he and several other knights went to their tents and armed themselves, and then mounting on horse back, entered the field with such fury, that they bore down all before them, altho' the knight of

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Envy made great resistance, for by this time he got together 250 knights to back him; so that what with the ladies shrieks and cries of the wounded, great was the confusion and amazement on both sides; at last Don Bellianis and the knight of envy met, whereupon between them began a most fierce and terrible combat, and many wounds given on both sides, when on a sudden the skies darkened, and it began to thunder dreadfully, accompanied with frightful flashes of sulphureous lightning, burning thro' the air in prodigious blazing; comets were also seen, and bloody horses in fiery flames, which amazed the most resolute, and presently, so thick a fog descended, that darken'd all the sky, so that they could hardly discern one another; upon which the fight ended, and the air began to clear again, and instead of the knight of Envy and his companions, there appeared a great castle, guarded by several monstrous and most hideous giants: upon which Don Bellianis perceiv'd an ancient matron coming towards him, whom he knew to be the sage Bellona his friend, and then he retired to the place where the sultan, the empress, and the princess were, with many other great lords and ladies, and had no sooner told them who the matron was, but up she came, without any reverence shewn, said, Most noble sultan, and you the prince of Greece, this day's proceeding, without all peradventure, doth amaze you; and it would have been of sad consequence to you, if I had not by my art put a stop to it, having read in the book of destinies long since, what was intended by the malicious Frislon to disturb this day's tranquility and happy nuptials: and it would have been more dreadful, had I not found out an enchant-

ment to countermine his magick art ; for in yonder castle there still remains the knight, who by his appointment came with assured success to destroy the noble and most heroick Don Bellianis, who had on an enchanted armour, which none but enchanted weapons e'er can pierce : but now most noble potentates, the storm is over, no longer works his magick art to your detriment, therefore proceed in these your sports, which none can now disturb ; having thus said, she vanish'd out of sight in a clap of thunder.

Then they proceeded to finish the tournaments, and their princely sports and pastimes with great mirth and solemnity.



C H A P. XIV.

A description of the enchanted castle, and the adventures of several knights thereupon.

THE castle before mentioned still remained in sight when the tournaments were over, the sultan and his nobles went to take a view of it, and found it wonderfully made, and to appearance seem'd impregnable ; for round it there were three great ditches running swift in a circle, and in a trench on the other side, blue flames sprang up to the height of a man, which near cover'd the castle in clouds of smoke ; and to guard the entrance, (which was but a narrow bridge) passable but by

one at once, four dreadful giants stood holding two lyons and two tygers.

When Don Bellianis the great dissolver of enchantments, fired with thirst of glory, went to the sultan, and desired leave to try the adventure, in forming this new machine, which he assured was not real, but only imaginary; and that if there were any knights in it, they were kept there by enchantment; but as he was thus speaking, a fiery pillar rose out of the ground, on which was this inscription, or future presage:

*This great adventure cannot finish'd be,
Unless by those to whom the fates decree,
The young Sciconian Lyon with the help
Of the renown'd and famous Grecian whelp;
Shall e're the sun thro' all the signs hath pass'd,
Meet in this place and conquer all at last,
Then friends they shall be made, peace ensue,
And Envy's knight the dismal business rue.*

This was no sooner read by the sultan and Don Bellianis, but the pillar sunk into the ground, and a great blast of fire ascended into the air; so that our valiant hero, at the desire of the sultan and his beloved princess, declin'd attempting the adventure, then they all return'd in great triumph to the palace, and were most sumptuously entertained at the charge of Don Bellianis, for whom a new palace was order'd to be built.

Now in the midst of the merriment the young knights agreed to go to the enchanted castle (but unknown to the sultan) and to try their fortunes in the adventures.

Whereupon arming themselves cap-a-pee, and taking with them long and strong swords, they rode a byway, (to keep their intention from the knowledge of Don Bellianis as well as the sultan) till they came to the castle, where they held a conference what was best to be done, and at last it was concluded that the knight of the Hope should begin the adventure, and assail the giants, whereupon he took a strong sword, and made towards the first giant, who seeing him coming lifting up his iron club into the air, whirling it about with dreadful rage: But all his threats did not abash the knight, who was desirous to win fame, that he might thereby get the favour of his dearly beloved the princess Mattarosa: And then approaching, he struck at the giant most fiercely, but did him but little harm, but the giant struck at the knight with his iron club so forcibly, that he sorely bruised his shoulder, that he dropt his sword, thereupon the giant caught him up in his arms, and threw him many paces from him, at which the other knights were forced to fetch him off, not being able to relieve himself, yet notwithstanding he was not at all daunted.

The next that undertook the adventure was the knight of the flaming Sword, but he met with no better luck than the former, then it was resolved that two at once should try their valour and prowess, whereupon Don Contumeliano and Florispiano both together marched resolutely to the bridge, and demanded passage, but the giant answered them never a word, but laying down his club drew his mighty scimitar, and then a fierce fight began, in which the giant received a wound in his right arm, which made him roar aloud, and bellow like a bull, upon which a second giant came quickly to his aid,

aid, which Don Clarineo, and Don Lucidamore perceiving, they also came to the assistance of their companions, and the fight began afresh, with most cruel fierceness, for the knights thirsting after glory laid on the monsters with all their might, and they as strongly defended themselves: but at last the knights perceiving that they fought in vain, and that they were not the persons destined to finish the adventure, they desisted, and drawing off, return'd to the palace of the sultan, but under an engagement upon their knighthoods, that no one of them should make known at any rate what they had enterprized.

The triumphs of the wedding being over, and the sultan not having heard of his army under the command of the prince of Numidia (with whom Don Bellianis had left that charge) he began to be somewhat uneasy, which Don Bellianis observing, he generously offered to return again to the army, and finish the war; at which proposition the princess his spouse, sitting next him, fell down in a swoon, which so affected him, that he durst not farther insist upon it, or make any more offers of leaving her for the future; nor was the sultan and empress willing that he should go by any means, knowing that the journey was long and hazardous: to prevent which it was concluded in council, that a treaty should be proposed to the emperor of Trebizon (then their prisoner) to know how he stood affected thereto, and also to a general peace, upon his being restored to his liberty and empire, and conditionally that he would thereupon comply with such demands as should be required of him?

And thereupon two of the principal nobles were sent to him with such proposal, but they effected

nothing, for the emperor upon notice that the princess Florisbella was married to Don Bellianis, grew so impatient, that he would not hearken or agree to any thing, unless he was first restored to his empire, and had ample satisfaction made him by the restoration of all that had been taken from him, and costs made good to him for the damages that his empire had sustain'd; saying, that though himself was a prisoner, yet he doubted not but that his allies would raise such forces to his assistance, as would enable him to recover by force of arms his own again, without his accepting of such dishonourable terms as they were about to offer him.

These unreasonable demands and haughty expression broke off the treaty, whereupon it was resolved, that the war should be vigorously prosecuted, and commissions were given out for the raising of new levies in order thereunto. But during the sitting of the council, a letter came from the prince of Numidia, the sultan's general at Trebizon, which being opened, the contents were found to be these, viz.

Dread

Dread sir,

SINCE the departure of the renowned Don Bellianis, I have kept the enemy block'd up in their city, where they were much dispirited for the loss of their emperor; but upon the arrival of fresh and considerable supplies, they reassumed fresh courage, and were so far beminded, that they were resolved to sally forth, and give me a battle, especially on account that their numbers (upon the coming of those new forces) were superior to mine, so that they came forth with such fury and impetuosity, that we had much ado to withstand their charge, but encouraging my troops to maintain this their last effort for glory, I rally'd with advantage, and taking this opportunity, we charg'd them home, and soon put them into confusion, and by an advantageous turn, we got between them and the city, and pursuing our advantage gained by good fortune, and the justness of our cause, we put them to the rout, and gave them a total defeat, cutting them almost to pieces; upon which we entered their capital city, and took possession of it, being opposed but by very few remaining forces left in the city. So that now, sir, all is your own in these parts, and that they may so continue is the hearty wish and desire of,

Dread sir,

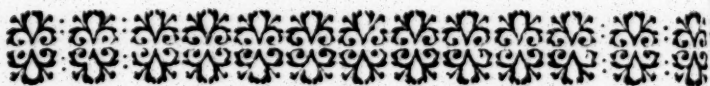
Your most obedient

Subject and kinsman,

*From the city
of Pharez, &c.*

BALTAZANO.

The emperor upon hearing the contents of this letter, his haughty demands were much abated, and in short he then appeared inclinable to close with the sultan's terms, tho' the sultan might then have insisted on larger demands, but still he no further urg'd than what he at first propos'd; so that peace was clapp'd up on these conditions, that the emperor was to be reinstated in his dominions, and that he was no farther to make any pretensions of any kind to the sultan's dominions, or to that of the court of war, was fiercely taken in: and as he viz. the emperor, was the aggressor, he should allow 400,000 pounds towards defraying the expenses of the war, which the Emper readily consented to, and so the war was happily concluded.



C H A P. XV.

How the princess Florisbella was delivered of a son and a daughter, and how they both were conveyed away by enchantment.

SO well had Don Bellianis, after his happy nuptials with his fair princess, employed his time, that she soon grew pregnant, and at the end of nine months brought forth a son and a daughter, to the great joy of themselves, and their parents; since now there was a prospect of so hopeful an issue, to sway the empire to naturity. Upon which joyful

joyful occasion bells rang, musick of all sorts sounded, and bonfires of cedar were made; with wine flowing from conduits, plentifully given upon this happy occasion.

And soon after the twins were baptized, by the name of Bellianeo, to the son, and Clariridia, to the daughter, being the names of Don Bellianis's royal parents

At which solemnity of baptism, many of the sage, or great philosophers, consulted concerning their future fortune, and by the signatures with which they were born, they had promising years of success and glory. The young prince having plainly imprinted on his breast the representation of three crowns; and the young princess, of an equal number of flourishing roses. But while the sages were consulting on these matters, a voice as loud as a trumpet was heard in the palace, but not perceived from whence it came, but in intelligible and audible words was heard this prophecy.

*Before the moon shall fix times wain her horns,
And lose the light that her pale globe adorns:
Great Babylon shall grieve, tho' now they joy,
To lose the princess, and the princely boy;
For so the fates decree, they must be ta'en,
That they hereafter gloriously may reign.
Lost they shall be, but yet they shall be found,
And as their marks presage, with crowns be crown'd:
Peace they shall bring, when fate shall this reverse,
And they give laws throughout the universe.*

This prophesy troubled the whole court, but more particularly Don Bellianis and his fair princess; who presently consulted how they might contrive to hinder the effects of the presage, and therefore it was resolved, that they with their nurses, and such attendance as was proper, should be conveyed to a strong castle near the palace: which was accordingly done, and a guard of puissant knights to watch continually, for their security. Thus continued the infants, for the space of six months, thriving beyond expectation, so that their parents were abundantly pleas'd with the hopeful prospect of their doing well; 'till the presaged time was past, thereby to defate or frustrate the prophesy.

The fame of this noble birth, being spread abroad to remote countries; so that many noble and magnificent persons came to court, to congratulate the Sultan, and his illustrious son-in-law, on account of the birth of his happy issue. Among whom the kings and queens of Syraza and Antioch came, and brought with them their two daughters, intending 'that they should be brought up at the court of Babylon, with the children of Don Bellianis and his beautiful consort.

In honour of these royal guests, the Sultan ordered a splendid entertainment; and that tilts and tournaments should be held to grace the day: Upon which the princess Florisbella ordered, that her children should be particularly guarded on that day: And though the Sultan and Don Bellianis were both against it, yet such was her importunity, that she prevailed to obtain a grant for the same purpose.

And

And when the day was come for their baptism, many of the nobles brought gifts, of rich and valuable consequence, to the children; and they were placed at the table, with crowns hanging over their heads: on either side of each were placed the daughters of Antioch and of Syraza.

Dinner being ended, the trumpets sounded, and the knights prepared for the tilt-yard: where scaffolds were prepared for the seating of the Sultan, and for all the nobility; and more particularly for the young prince, and three princesses, on which none were to be but them and their nurses.

When all were seated, several knights jested, and the sport continued for a considerable time, to the great delight of the spectators. But after the breaking of six or seven lances, it began to thunder and lighten in a most dreadful manner, so that all were for retiring to the palace; when presently there appeared a darkish cloud, and dividing itself there appeared a chariot drawn with six dragons, spitting fire; and from a bright cloud issued another chariot, drawn by six fierce griffins: when presently that with the dragons alighted in the place where the tournament was held, which Don Bellianis observing, he was under great concern, lest this should be the time of the prophesy's being fulfilled.

And while he was thus musing, the other chariot descended, and out of that issued two monstrous giants, who approached to the scaffold, where the children were, which made the princess Florissbella and her ladies scream out; but as the chariot drawn by the dragons, attempted to mount the step, the other chariot with the griffins pulled it down, so that there began a great contention, which proceeded to a bloody battle, and dreadful

was

was the fight; 'till at last the giant belonging to the dragon chariot seemed to be vanished out of sight, but presently re-assumed his shape again and seated himself, when immediately a clap of thunder ensued, after which neither chariot or giant appeared any more. But the other giant and chariot remaining, the giant went up to the scaffold with great violence, and took the son and daughter of Don Bellianis and Florisbella, leaving the other children and their nurses almost dead with fear, then wrapping them up in panthers skins, conveyed them to the chariot, at which instant a whirl-wind arose that shook all the place, and frightened the beholders, in which the chariot seemed to mount, and pass away 'till quite out of sight. At which Don Bellianis and his princess were very much grieved for the loss of their dear infants, as were also the nobility there present.

C H A P. XVI.

Of the grief for the loss of the young prince and princess; and how Don Bellianis and his peerless consort, were comforted by a letter from the sage Bellona.

THE Princess Florisbella, upon this sad surprize, was immediately conveyed to her chamber, where she made great lamentation, with dismal outcries, for such an inestimable a loss: but Don Bellianis, her dear lord, condoled with her the sad misfortune; and at the same time, comforted her in the best manner he could, often repeating the honour of the prophecy concerning them, wherein it was declared, that they should be found again; when at the same instant there drop'd, as it were from the cieling, a letter, directed to Don Bellianis, which being opened, found the contents of it to be as follows.

The sage Bellona to Don Bellianis.

Renowned prince,

AS hitherto it hath been my chiefest care, to serve and protect the house of Greece, but more especially your own person, so it shall be still; therefore be not ever concerned for the loss of your children, for under my custody they are safe, and all danger is past that threatned them; so pray be easy, as to that respect, for all the towers of Babylon cannot better secure them from danger, than while they are under my care, where they
must

must remain for some time, for their security from danger, and for their better accomplishment in all noble and princely qualifications; and then they shall return to *Babylon*, at which time their presence shall make ample satisfaction for their absence in the interim, I rest,

Your friend,

Bellona.

This letter somewhat abated the great concern of the princess for the loss of her children, in as much, that she perfectly knew that the sage *Bellona* was a fast friend to their family, and that nothing would be done by her, to their least detriment, but that all she did, would redound to their profit and honourable advantage. The Sultan and Empress were also mightily pleased, and satisfy'd concerning their grand children's safety.

At the period of time prefix'd, the two princely children were brought again in full growth, and manly and womanly maturity, to the great joy of *Don Bellianis* and his delicious spouse: Where we will leave them in delight of the hopeful prospect of their glory and grandeur, to be propagated by so blessed an issue.

C H A P. XVII.

How the prince of the Cape-Island fell in love with the princess Mattarosa, and upon her refusal, conveyed her away by force, and how she was rescued by the valiant Don Bellianis.

ONE day Don Bellianis was walking through a wood, he met a damsel who made great lamentation, and coming up to him, he demanded the cause of her grief? Cause! said she: truly, I have cause sufficient, and more than I can well express, but I must not stay to relate it; for I am going to Persepolis, to inform the Sultan what hath happened, and to desire speedy aid and redress.

Nay, said Don Bellianis, I must beg of you, dear lady, to inform me of the cause; and, perhaps, I may be instrumental to redress your sorrow, and assure yourself that I will do my utmost to relieve you, let the case be what it will.

Alas! reply'd she: it is not in the power of any one single knight, where he never so puissant, to procure a salve for my sore, therefore do not any farther insist on its particulars.

Why so, said Don Bellianis? I have more knights near at hand, that will assist me in the affair, therefore let me hear it.

Upon which the damsel was revived, and blessed herself in being so fortunate as to meet with such hopeful succour, under such necessitous circumstances. And then she began to relate the matter as follows: Know then, sir, that I am a servant to Mattarosa, the princess of Numidia, who being lately

lately in the court of the Sultan, her uncle, there to attend the solemnity of the marriage of the princess Persiana with duke Alfyrion; and just as she was about to return to her father's court, (in company with her brother, Don Baltazano) king Altifer, a prodigious giant, and lord of the Cape Islands in the Persian Sea, cast his eyes on the princess, and was wonderfully taken with her beauty, and therefore used all possible means by letters, and otherwise of addresses, to gain her for his spouse: but she had such an aversion and detestation to so monstrous a person, and a more deformed mind, that she with scorn rejected all his hateful proposals: Thereupon he made his application to the Sultan and to Don Baltazano, but they upon the knowledge of her aversion, would by no means yield their consent to the match.

Whereupon the monster seeing his hopes thereby frustrated, resolved by stratagem to obtain what otherwise he could not: and therefore he gained intelligence which way they were to pass, at their return home: and he, with his two brothers (as monstrous as himself) and thirty knights of a prodigious size in stature, placed themselves in an ambush, in a lonesome wood, through which they were to pass at their return. And as they were coming thro' the aforesaid wood, he, with his two brothers and the thirty knights issued out upon the princess, her brother, and about twenty knights in his company, and tho' they behaved themselves with great courage and valour, killing many of the enemies yet such was the monstrous force of the giants, that they slew almost all the knights; and putting the rest to flight, took the prince and princess prisoners, intending to convey them to the island aforementioned.

tioned, and there to force the princess to accept of him for her husband, or else to ravish her; which, past all doubt, will cause her to lay violent hands upon herself, rather than to yield to his beastly lust. And now I have followed them from place to place, in hopes to procure some courteous knights to work their deliverance, which if not done by to-morrow this time, it will then be altogether impracticable: they are now secured in a castle, some miles hence, and to-morrow they intend to embark.

Don Bellianis hearing this, was exceeding glad to hear of such an adventure, whereby he might shew his courage and great prowess, and therefore he bid the damsel, not to be too much discouraged, for that he would instantly go with her, and that if the giants were mortal, he would by the assistance of providence, not only deliver the prince and princess, but also make their enemies pay dear for their rash attempt: at which the damsel was ready to weep for joy, and falling on her knees, pray'd very fervently for his success.

By this time duke Alfyrion, Persiana, and the rest of the company were come up, and were very inquisitive concerning the discourse between Don Bellianis and the damsel, who informed them concerning the whole matter, at which they were much concerned. But Don Bellianis encouraged them, by telling them, that he had undertaken their deliverance; and therefore desired twenty knights to accompany him, who readily offered him their service. And among them the king of Armenia, would needs make one in the adventure, so that taking leave, they followed the damsel's directions, who brought them through a huge forest, where they met a wild bear of vast largeness, and
most

most horrible to behold, who made at them with exceeding fierceness; but Don Bellianis, not in the least intimidated, soon dispatch'd him with his lance, (to the no small joy of the spectators) and bore his monstrous head on high on the top of a spear in great triumph.

At last they came in sight of a large castle situated on the top of a hill, which the damsel inform'd them was the very castle in which the two princely prisoners were so closely confin'd, and that it belonged to a huge, monstrous, and terrible giant, who was kinsman to Altifer: whereupon Don Bellianis sent a knight to enquire concerning the situation and strength of the castle, with strict injunctions to act in the most secret and cautious manner he possibly could, that he might not in the least be suspected, well knowing that if his design should be discovered it would cost him dear; the knight proceeding with these instructions manag'd his affair with such prudence and dexterity that he easily got admittance into the castle, under a pretence of being a knight in necessity that wanted a supply; and soon after his admittance amongst them, he discovered their intention and learned the design of the whole affair; immediately after which by his cunning contrivance he found means to make his escape in so judicious and secret a manner that there was not the least suspicion of his departure.

After this fortunate and safe escape, he immediately proceeded to Don Bellianis, (who received him with great eagerness and joy, impatient to know the news he had brought from the castle, upon which the knight told the particulars of both what he had seen and heard amongst them,

viz.

viz. that the castle was prodigiously strong, beautiful, and well guarded, and that their intention was to set out the next morning with their captives to the sea coast, having taken care to have order'd a ship for their embarkation to a remote part; and likewise that he had heard the terrible lamentation that the princess made in the place of her confinement upon hearing of their intended and sudden departure to a part she knew not, nor could ever expect any relief from her most deplorable circumstances.

These things being heard by Don Bellianis, he resolv'd with the consent of the rest, to lodge in the adjacent villages, but not all in company lest it might give give suspicion. And therefore it was concluded to meet in the wood that the giants were to pass by the next morning: which being come, Don Bellianis and those that were with him, arm'd themselves, and sent out a knight to lie perdue, to give notice of the approach of the giants, and what their number was, accordingly Don Bellianis departed to the place appointed, where he found the rest of his company in proper readiness waiting his coming, being very impatient to proceed on their intended attack on the giants, to relieve the fair princess Mattarosa and the rest of the captives, or else resolving to die in the attempt. Being already armed they waited only for the knight that was to give the information of the approach of the giants.

When in about two hours time, the knight that was upon the scout, came hastily to them and bid them prepare, for that the enemy was at hand, whereupon Don Bellianis mounted, as likewise did all his company, and rode to meet the giants, whose
near

near approach they understood by the dismal outcries of the princess and her damsels. Don Bellianis advanced foremost, and coming near the giants demanded of the first, viz. the brother of Altifer, why they used ladies in so cruel a manner: with great disdain reply'd, that unless he kept on his way without such impertinent enquiries, he should be used far worse; shall I so, said Don Bellianis, then that shall be try'd; for by my knight-hood, I will not only know the cause, but also set them at liberty, or it shall cost me my life: that it shall soon, said the giant, and lifting his huge battle-ax in the air, thought to have cleft his head in the midst at one blow, but he was deceived, for Don Bellianis nimbly avoiding the stroke with his lance, struck the monster such a blow on the breast, that he tumbled him headlong breathless to the ground.

Which Don Bellianis's knights perceiving, they fell with prodigious fury on the giants knights, who returned the charge as warmly, many falling on both sides, and the field cover'd with blood and the shivers of broken lances. The battle continued for a long time dubious, neither side knowing which had the advantage, whilst the distressed captives were in the greatest anxiety to know the event.

Then came up the king of Armenia, and the other knights; so that then began a most cruel and bloody fight; but Don Bellianis having unhors'd another giant, before he broke his lance, he drew his sword, and charg'd with such fury, that arms and mangled armour were scattered all over the place, killing and wounding so desperately, that the giants knights were not able to stand before him,

him, for he was a greater terror to them than almost death itself.

In the mean while the king of Armenia was not idle, but with great courage fought the brother of Altifer, and wounded him in many places. Now when the battle grew very bloody on both sides, the prince Don Baltazano found means to unbind himself; and also many of the captive knights, and getting the swords and armour of such as were slain, charg'd desperately upon the rear of Altifer's men, that were upon the retreat; which Altifer perceiving (who had all this while the princess on horseback before him) he let her fall to the ground, with her hands bound behind her, and then like an enraged lyon came to renew the fight, and killed two knights that opposed him: Which Don Bellianis perceiving, he met him and soon put a stop to his courage, by giving him a terrible blow on his helmet, which cutting quite thro', the blood gush'd out as from a fountain, which made him roar out in a most hideous manner, and lifting his huge sword struck at Don Bellianis with both hands, but he avoiding the stroke, at the same instant run his sword quite thro' the giant's body, up to the very hilt, so that with a terrible groan he dropped down dead, which his knights observing, they all immediately fled, and the others pursuing them with the greatest swiftness and slaughter, so that hardly six escaped with their lives, and those with the greatest difficulty.

Thus when the battle was over, Don Bellianis went to the princess Mattarosa, and congratulated her upon her great deliverance from such imminent danger.

Who

Who was so full of gratitude and thanks to Don Bellianis for her deliverance, that she was unable to express herself in words, but only in tears of joy for so great a preservation.

(And so concludes this History.)

F I N I S.



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